STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA
main,stks 366.109748F8775p
Proceedings of the Grand Holy
1896 Royal Arch Masons
0 0001 00667080 4

S
366.109748
F8775p
1896

S
366.109748
F875p
1896

02-49-8947

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/volume1896procee00roya

1896

The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania

LANDING OF STAIRCASE, LEADING TO GRAND CHAPTER HALL, MASONIC TEMPLE.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GRAND

Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA

AND

MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 28, 1896,
BEING ITS ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST YEAR.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED FOR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA BY THE
THOMSON PRINTING CO., 310 CHERRY ST
1897.

THE GRAND

Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1795—1896.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 5, 1896.

PRESENT:

Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT, ... *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, . . . *M. E. Grand King.*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, ... *M. E. G and Scribe.*
" THOMAS R. PATTON, ... *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY, ... *M. E. Grand Secretary.*
" THOMAS S. WOODBURY, . *as Grand Chaplain.*
" EDWIN H. COANE, ... *as Grand Captain of the Host.*
" SAMUEL I. GIVIN, ... *as Grand Principal Sojourner.*
" FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY, . *as Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
" FRANK P. MASON, ... *as Grand Master of the Third Vail.*
" ADAM H. SCHMEHL, . . . *as Grand Master of the Second Vail.*
" WILLIAM C. MATCHETT, . *as Grand Master of the First Vail.*
" ROBERT J. LINDEN, ... *Grand Marshal.*
" LEWIS S. WESSELS, ... *Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FORREST E. GORDON, ... *Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FRANK M. HIGHLEY, ... *Grand Pursuivant.*
" WILLIAM A. SINN, ... *Grand Tyler.*

330105

District Deputy Grand High Priests.—Comps. CURTIS G. CAMPBELL, JOHN B. SPRENKEL, STEPHEN H. APPLETON, JOHN H. SHOPP, THADDEUS S. ADLE, ALBERT R. HOOVER, DANIEL Z. WALKER, GEORGE P. LINDSAY, FREDERICK L. BROWN, MARTIN L. SHAFFNER, ALURED P. BURTON, JOHN W. FARNSWORTH, CYRUS H. BLOOD.

Past Grand High Priests.—M. E. Comps. GEORGE E. WAGNER, HIBBERT P. JOHN, GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., JAMES S. BARBER, EDGAR A. TENNIS.

Grand Representatives.

Comp. WILLIAM J. KELLY, of Grand Chapter of Arkansas.
" J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Grand Chapter of California.
" THOMAS R. PATTON, of Grand Chapters of Canada and Scotland.
" JAMES S. BARBER, of Grand Chapters of Delaware and North Carolina.
" DAVID B. TAYLOR, of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.
" GEORGE E. WAGNER, of Grand Mark Lodge of England.
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.
" JOSHUA L. LYTE, of Grand Chapter of Iowa.
" SAMUEL W. WRAY, of Grand Chapter of Kansas.
" EDGAR A. TENNIS, of Grand Chapter of Kentucky.
" ALEXANDER MCCUNE, of Grand Chapter of Maine.
" MARTIN L. SHAFFNER, of Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.
" GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., of Grand Chapter of Nebraska.
" EZRA S. BARTLETT, of Grand Chapter of New Jersey.
" CHARLES CARY, of Grand Chapter of New York.
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, of Grand Chapter of North Dakota.
" ELLSWORTH H. HULTS, of Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.
" HIBBERT P. JOHN, of Grand Chapter of Tennessee.
" WILLIAM A. SINN, of Grand Chapter of Texas.
" LOUIS WAGNER, of Grand Chapter of Vermont.
" CONRAD B. DAY, of Grand Chapter of Virginia.
" JOHN KELLER, of Grand Chapter of Washington.

Chapters No. 3, 21, 43, 52, 91, 152, 169, 171, 173, 175, 180, 181, 183, 185, 190, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203, 204, 208, 209, 214, 215, 219, 221, 225, 226, 229, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 243, 245, 248, 250, 251, 256, 258, 262, 268, 271. (50 Chapters.)

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form at seven o'clock P. M.

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication held on Thursday, December 5, 1895, and of the Annual Grand Communication held on St. John's Day, Friday, December 27, 1895, were separately read and approved.

Companion MICHAEL W. JACOBS was installed as *Most Excellent Grand Scribe*, was duly proclaimed as such, and received the Salutations of the Craft.

Amendments to By-Laws were received from Chapters No. 175, 225, 256 and 262, which were referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows:

PHILADELPHIA, March 5, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of
The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS:—Your Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the books of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton, and the books of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Companion Charles Cary, from November 20, 1895, to February 28, 1896, and find them correct and agreeing with their vouchers, showing:—

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand, November 20, 1895	$ 655 57
Received from Chapters and Mark Lodges	4,435 65
Received from sale of Constitutions	20 00
Received for Dispensation	1 00
	$5,112 22

EXPENDITURES:

Expenses of District Deputy Grand High Priests	$ 544 07	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	98 94	
Rent	1,500 00	
Salaries	37 50	
Masonic Clothing and Furniture	217 15	
Tuning Organ	40 00	
		2,437 66
Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer		$2,674 56

(Signed)
WILLIAM J. KELLY,
SAMUEL W. WRAY,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
CHARLES W. PACKER,
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS,
Committee on Finance.

The Committee on By-Laws presented a Report, which was received as read, and the Resolutions attached thereto were adopted.

The Committe on Printing and Publishing reported that the contract for printing the "Proceedings of 1895" had been awarded to The Thomson Printing Co., they being the lowest and best bidders.

General Returns were received from a number of Chapters and Mark Lodges, which were ordered to be entered and filed.

On motion of Companion Charles P. Keech, it was "*Resolved*:—That a Committee of five be appointed, to act in conjunction with the Elective Grand Officers, to revise and amend the Constitution and submit their Report for action at the Quarterly Communication in June next."

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed the following Committee:—M. E. Comps. George E. Wagner, P. G. H. P.; Michael Nisbet, P. G. H. P.; James S. Barber, P. G. H. P.; William J. Kelly and J. Simpson Africa; Comp. Charles P. Keech having declined.

A Communication was received from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, announcing the death of M. E. Companion Z. Ellis Coombes, Past Grand High Priest of said Grand Chapter; died November 25, 1895.

A Communication was received from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, announcing the death, on December 8, 1895, of M. E. Companion Charles Van Swearingen Levy, Past Grand High Priest.

A Communication was received from the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, announcing the death, on December 23, 1895, of M. E. Companion Rees Gibbon Williams, Past Grand High Priest.

A Communication was received from the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Virginia, announcing the death, on December 24, 1895, of M. E. Companion Rev. George Washington Dame, Past Grand High Priest and Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Chapter was "called off" for the purpose of exemplifying the *Mark Master Mason's* Degree.

A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened, and the Degree of Mark Master Mason was exemplified by the Grand Officers.

The Lodge of Mark Master Masons was closed.

The Grand Chapter was then "called on."

The Grand Chapter was closed in Peace at nine o'clock and thirty minutes, P. M.

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 4, 1896.

PRESENT:

Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT, ... *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, ... *M. E. Grand King.*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, ... *M. E. Grand Scribe.*
" THOMAS R. PATTON, ... *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY, ... *M. E. Grand Secretary.*
" REV. HENRY S. GETZ, ... *Grand Chaplain.*
" L. HASSELL LAPP, ... *Grand Captain of the Host.*
" EDWIN H. COANE, ... *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
" SAMUEL I. GIVIN, ... *Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
" FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY, . . *Grand Master of the Third Vail.*
" FRANK P. MASON, ... *Grand Master of the Second Vail.*
" ADAM H. SCHMEHL, ... *Grand Master of the First Vail.*
" ROBERT J. LINDEN, ... *Grand Marshal.*
" LEWIS S. WESSELS, ... *Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FORREST E. GORDON, . . . *Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FRANK M. HIGHLEY, ... *Grand Pursuivant.*
" WILLIAM A. SINN, ... *Grand Tyler.*

District Deputy Grand High Priests.—Comps. JOHN B. SPRENKEL, STEPHEN H. APPLETON, THADDEUS S. ADLE, ALBERT R. HOOVER, DANIEL B. ELSE, CHRISTIAN A. SEIDEL, JOHN W. FARNSWORTH, ELLIS H. DOAN.

Past Grand High Priests.—M. E. Comps. GEORGE E WAGNER, HIBBERT P. JOHN, GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, JAMES S. BARBER, EDGAR A. TENNIS.

Grand Representatives.

Comp. J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Grand Chapter of California.
" THOMAS R. PATTON, of Grand Chapters of Canada and Scotland.
" JAMES S BARBER, of Grand Chapters of Delaware and North Carolina.

Comp. GEORGE E. WAGNER, of Grand Mark Lodge of England.
" GEORGE. B. WELLS, of Grand Chapter of Illinois.
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.
" JOSHUA L. LYTE, of Grand Chapter of Iowa.
" SAMUEL W. WRAY, of Grand Chapter of Kansas.
" EDGAR A. TENNIS, of Grand Chapter of Kentucky.
" ALEXANDER MCCUNE, of Grand Chapter of Maine.
" N. FERREE LIGHTNER, of Grand Chapter of Minnesota.
" GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., of Grand Chapter of Nebraska.
" EZRA S. BARTLETT, of Grand Chapter of New Jersey.
" CHARLES CARY, of Grand Chapter of New York.
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS of Grand Chapter of North Dakota.
" ELLSWORTH H. HULTS, of Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.
" HIBBERT P. JOHN, of Grand Chapter of Tennessee.
" WILLIAM A. SINN, of Grand Chapter of Texas.
" LOUIS WAGNER, of Grand Chapter of Vermont.
" L HASSELL LAPP, of Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

Chapters No. 3, 21, 43, 52, 91, 152, 169, 173, 175, 183, 190, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202. 208, 209, 219, 222, 226, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 243, 245, 247, 248, 250, 256, 262 267, 271. (38 Chapters).

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form at seven o'clock P. M.

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication held on Thursday, March 5, 1896, were read and approved.

Amendments to By-Laws were received from Chapters No. 251 and 256, and referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows:—

PHILADELPHIA, June 4, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS:—The Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the books of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Comp. Thomas R.

Patton, and the books of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Comp. Charles Cary, from February 28th to May 29th, 1896, and find them correct and agreeing with their vouchers, showing :—

RECEIPTS :

Balance on hand February 28, 1896		$2,674 56
Received from Chapters and Mark Lodges		1,390 40
" Interest on Masonic Loan		400 00
" Interest on Deposits		31 40
" Sale of Constitutions		3 00
" Sale of Certificates		2 00
" Fees for Dispensations		3 00
		$4,504 36

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest	$307 50	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	39 75	
Masonic Clothing and Furniture	31 41	
Salaries	37 50	
		416 16
Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer		$4,088 20

Signed,

WILLIAM J. KELLY,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ.
SAMUEL W. WRAY,
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS,
CHARLES W. PACKER,
Committee on Finance.

The Committee on By-Laws presented the following Report, which was received and the accompanying resolution was adopted.

PHILADELPHIA, June 4, 1896.

To The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Your Committee on By-Laws respectfully report that they have examined the Amendments referred to them, and offer the following :—

"*Resolved*, That the proposed Amendments to By-Laws of Chapters Nos. 251 and 256 be approved."

Fraternally submitted,

Signed, CHARLES P. KEECH,
PHILIP C. SHAFFER,
JOSEPH M. WIATT,
Committee on By-Laws.

M. E. Companion George E. Wagner reported that the Committee appointed to revise the Constitution was attending to that duty, having held several meetings, and that the indulgence of the Grand Chapter was asked until the Quarterly Communication, in September next, when a complete report will be presented.

General Returns were received from a number of Chapters, which were ordered to be entered and filed.

The M. E. Grand High Priest, in feeling terms, announced the death of Past Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion MICHAEL NISBET, which occurred on May 7, 1896, and stated that he had issued the following official letter to all the Chapters in the Jurisdiction, and to the several Grand Chapters with whom we are in fraternal correspondence.

THE GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING.

OFFICE OF THE M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, May 15th, 1896.

To the Officers and Members of the Subordinate Chapters of this Jurisdiction, and to all Royal Arch Masons wherever dispersed:

COMPANIONS:—With feelings of the deepest sorrow I give official announcement of the death of our much-loved and esteemed Companion, M. E. Past Grand High Priest,

Michael Nisbet,

which occurred on the seventh day of May, 1896, at his home in this City, after an illness of only two days. He was buried with Masonic Honors on the eleventh day of May, the Ceremonies of the Craft being performed by the Officers of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania.

Companion Nisbet, in his active Masonic life of nearly half a century, filled with recognized skill and ability almost every elective office in the Grand and Subordinate Bodies of Ancient Craft and Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and was ever conspicuous as a learned, earnest and zealous worker for the good of Freemasonry. He was well known and highly respected throughout the Masonic World, and as a man and a citizen he was justly held in high esteem.

It is ordered that in memory of our departed Companion, this communication be read in each Subordinate Chapter within our Jurisdiction and entered in full upon the Minutes at the next Stated Meeting after its receipt; and that the Jewels of such Chapters be draped in mourning for the space of six months.

Fraternally,

[SEAL] EZRA S. BARTLETT,
M. E. Grand High Priest.

Official
CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

MICHAEL NISBET was born at Philadelphia, Pa., on September 9th, 1829.

Companion NISBET was initiated into Freemasonry in Rising Star Lodge, No. 126, F. & A. M., October 11th, 1851, and was Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1856, continuing a member during his life, and serving as its Secretary from 1861 to 1877 inclusive.

He served on the Finance Committee of Grand Lodge from 1858 to 1877; on the Committee on Appeals in 1880, and on the Committee on Landmarks from 1881 to 1889 inclusive.

Was elected and served as R. W. Junior Grand Warden in 1874 and 1875; R. W. Senior Grand Warden in 1876 and 1877; R. W. Deputy Grand Master in 1878, and R. W. Grand Master in 1879 and 1880. Elected R. W. Grand Secretary December 1st, 1880, to which position he was annually thereafter re-elected, and served up to the time of his death.

He received the Mark Degree in Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214, September 14th, 1852. Resigned November 10th, 1857. Affiliated with Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216, December 15th, 1857, and at the time of his decease was one of its Trustees.

He received the Degrees of Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch in Oriental R. A. Chapter, No. 183, in 1856; served as its Scribe in 1857, King in 1858, M. E. High Priest in 1859, Secretary from 1860 to 1863, and as Treasurer from December 27th, 1863, to his decease.

Was elected and served as Grand Scribe of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter during 1866 and 1867, Grand King in 1868 and 1869, and as M. E. Grand High Priest in 1870 and 1871. At the time of his death he was a member of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution of Grand Chapter.

He received the Cryptic Degrees in Philadelphia Council. No. 11, on September 11th, 1872, and served as its Treasurer from 1875 to 1880.

He was knighted in Kadosh Commandery, No 29, Knights Templar, on February 23d, 1869, and served as its eminent Commander in 1873-1874.

He was also a member of the Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania.

The death of Companion JOHN P. CLARK, of the Committee on Correspondence, was announced by the M. E. Grand High Priest, who requested M. E. Companion Edgar A. Tennis, Past Grand High Priest, to prepare a suitable memorial.

The M. E. Grand High Priest stated that he had received and accepted the resignations of Companion Charles F. Derr, District Deputy Grand High Priest, and of Companion William A. Sinn, Grand Tyler.

He then announced the following appointments :—

Comp. Christian A. Seidel, as District Deputy Grand High Priest for District No. 9, in place of Comp. Charles F. Derr, resigned.

Comp Samuel W. Wray, as Grand Tyler, in place of Comp. William A. Sinn, resigned.

Comp. James H. Codding, on Committee on Correspondence, in place of Comp. John P. Clark, deceased.

M. E. Comp. Edgar A. Tennis, on Committee on Revision of Constitution, in place of M. E. Comp. Michael Nisbet, deceased.

A Communication was received from the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, announcing the death, on April 25, 1896, of M. E. Comp HENRY FLAVEL GILLETTE, Past Grand High Priest of said Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was "called off" for the purpose of exemplifying the Most Excellent Master Mason's Degree.

A Lodge of Most Excellent Master Masons was opened and the Degree was exemplified by the Grand Officers.

The Grand Chapter was then "called on."

The Grand Chapter was closed in peace at 8 o'clock and forty minutes P. M.

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

330105

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 3, 1896.

PRESENT :

Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT . . . . . *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON . . . . *M. E. Grand King.*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS . . . . *M. E. Grand Scribe.*
" THOMAS R. PATTON . . . . . *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY . . . . . *M. E. Grand Secretary.*
" THOMAS S. WOODBURY . . *as Grand Chaplain.*
" L. HASSELL LAPP . . . . . *Grand Captain of the Host.*
" EDWIN H. COANE . . . . . *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
" SAMUEL I. GIVIN . . . . . *Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
" FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY . . *Grand Master of the Third Vail.*
" FRANK P. MASON . . . . . *Grand Master of the Second Vail.*
" ADAM H. SCHMEHL . . . . . *Grand Master of the First Vail.*
" ROBERT J. LINDEN . . . . . *Grand Marshal.*
" LOUIS S. WESSELS . . . . . *Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FORREST E. GORDON . . . . *Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FRANK M. HIGHLEY . . . . *Grand Pursuivant.*
" SAMUEL W. WRAY . . . . . *Grand Tyler.*

District Deputy Grand High Priests.—Comps. JOHN B. SPRENKEL, STEPHEN H. APPLETON, THADDEUS S. ADLE, CHRISTIAN A. SEIDEL, DANIEL Z. WALKER, JAMES H. CODDING, DANIEL B. ELSE, FREDERICK L. BROWN, JOHN W. FARNSWORTH, ELLIS H. DOAN.

Past Grand High Priests.—M. E. Comps. GEORGE E. WAGNER, HIBBERT P. JOHN, GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., JAMES S. BARBER, EDGAR A. TENNIS.

Grand Representatives.

Comp. WILLIAM J. KELLY, of Grand Chapter of Arkansas.
" J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Grand Chapter of California.
" THOMAS R. PATTON, of Grand Chapters of Canada and Scotland.
" JAMES S. BARBER, of Grand Chapters of Delaware and North Carolina.
" DAVID B. TAYLOR, of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.

Comp. GEORGE E. WAGNER, of Grand Mark Lodge of England.
" GEORGE B. WELLS, of Grand Chapter of Illinois.
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.
" JOSHUA L. LYTE, of Grand Chapter of Iowa.
" SAMUEL W WRAY, of Grand Chapter of Kansas.
" EDGAR A. TENNIS, of Grand Chapter of Kentucky.
" ALEXANDER MCCUNE, of Grand Chapter of Maine.
" N. FERREE LIGHTNER, of Grand Chapter of Minnesota.
" GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., of Grand Chapter of Nebraska.
" EZRA S. BARTLETT, of Grand Chapter of New Jersey.
" CHARLES CARY, of Grand Chapter of New York.
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, of Grand Chapter of North Dakota.
" EDWARD B. SPENCER, of Grand Chapter of Oregon.
" HIBBERT P. JOHN, of Grand Chapter of Tennessee.
" WILLIAM A. SINN, of Grand Chapter of Texas.
" LOUIS WAGNER, of Grand Chapter of Vermont.
" L. HASSELL LAPP, of Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

Chapters No. 3, 21, 43, 52, 91, 152, 161, 169, 175, 183, 185, 190, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203, 204, 208, 209, 215, 216, 222, 224, 226, 228, 232, 233, 234, 237, 258, 239, 240, 243, 245, 248, 250, 251, 256, 258, 262, 267, 268, 271. (46 Chapters.)

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form at seven o'clock, P. M.

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication held on Thursday, June 4, 1896, were read and approved.

Amendments to By-Laws were received from Chapters No. 152 and 193, which were referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows :

PHILADELPHIA, September 3, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS :—The Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the books of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Comp. Thomas R.

Patton, and the books of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Comp. Charles Cary, from May 29, to August 28, 1896, and find them correct and agreeing with their vouchers, showing :—

RECEIPTS :

Balance on hand, May 29, 1896		$4,088 20
Received from Chapters and Mark Lodge		337 25
Sale of Certificate		2 00
Sale of Constitution		1 00
Fee for Dispensation		1 00
		4,429 45

EXPENDITURES :

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest	244 00	
Masonic Home	500 00	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc.	1,009 61	
Salaries	37 50	
		1,791 11
Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer,		$2,638 34

(Signed)

WILLIAM. J. KELLY,
SAMUEL W. WRAY,
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS,
CHARLES W. PACKER
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
Committee on Finance

The Committee on By-Laws presented the following Report, which was received, and the accompanying resolution was, on motion, adopted :—

PHILADELPHIA, September 3, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS :—Your Committee on By-Laws beg leave to report that they have examined the several Amendments to By-Laws referred to them, and respectfully offer the following Resolution :—

Resolved:—That the proposed Amendments to By-Laws of Chapters No. 152 and 193 be approved.

(Signed)
PHILIP C. SHAFFER,
Secretary of Committee.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution reported that it had held a number of sessions, during which every part of the Constitution was carefully considered, as well as the amendments proposed; that that it had re-drafted the whole, correcting the inconsistencies and errors of language, and had incorporated therein such amendments as were deemed necessary. Whereupon it was

Resolved:—That so much of the proposed revision as provides for amendments to the present Constitution be sent to the Subordinate Chapters of this Jurisdiction (two copies to each Chapter), at least thirty days prior to the next Quarterly Communication, with notice that the same will be considered and acted upon at that time.

The M. E. Grand Secretary presented the following Report:—

PHILADELPHIA, September 3, 1896.

To The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging.

COMPANIONS:—The Grand Secretary respectfully presents the following Annual Report of the membership of the Chapters and Mark Lodges of the Jurisdiction for the year ending December 27, 1895.

CHAPTERS.

Membership, December 27, 1894, as per last Report		15,957
Admitted during the year 1895		132
Restored to Membership		6
Marked etc.		982
Total		17,077

DEDUCT:

Died during the year 1895	255	
Resigned, or membership ceased	136	
Suspended or Expelled	247	
		638
Membership, December 27, 1895, as per returns		16,439
A net gain of		482
Rejected during 1895		34
Restored to Good Masonic Standing		13

MARK LODGES.

Membership, December 27, 1894, as per last report		1,035
Admitted during 1895		3
Total		1,038

DEDUCT:

Died during the year 1895	17	
Resigned or membership ceased	2	
Suspended	1	
		20
Membership, December 27, 1895		1,018
Number of Chapters, December 27, 1895		121
Number of Mark Lodges, December 27, 1895		3

Fraternally submitted,

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

STATISTICS.

No.	Name	Marked	Ad.	D.	Res.	Sus.	Memb.
3	Jerusalem,	20	2	15	3	7	370
21	Perseverance,	6	2	3	3	3	168
43		9		2	1	8	269
52	Harmony,	37	4	12		13	903
91	Columbia,	34	3	6	3	6	449
150	Washington,	11	2	1		9	90
152	Reading,	11		3			197
159	Schuylkill,	3	1	2	1		27
161	Union,	6		1	3	3	134
162	Zerubbabel,	35		8	1	6	631
163	LaFayette,	2		3		2	98
164	Brownsville,	10			1		64
165	Union,	9	1	1	2		86
166	Mount Moriah,	3		1	1		68
167	Eureka,	2		1	1	2	59
169	Philadelphia,	10	7	6		2	175
170	Delta,	6	3		2	1	109
171	St. John's,				1		67
172	Temple,						50
173	Easton,	6		2	2	3	166
174	Northumberland,			1		2	42
175	Keystone,	26	1	6			397
176	George Washington,	2	3			2	61
177	Tamaqua,	5					44
178	Catawissa,		1			1	20
179	Eureka,	4		1	1	1	96
180	Warren,	1		2			30
181	Lilly	11		3			127
182	Shekinah,	20	1	3	1	1	142
183	Oriental,	68	3	22	6	22	1,125
185	Lackawanna,	14	1		3	1	173
186	Lewistown,	2		2			60
187	Oriental,	1	2				42
189	Mountain,	9		2		4	178
190	Norristown,	14		4			211
191	Solomon,	5		2	4	1	62
192	Urania,	7	2	6	1	3	163
193	Duquesne,	35	2	7			411
194	Tioga,	15		2	2		53
195	Portage,	12	4	2	1		94
196	Mountain City,	3		1	2	2	104

No.	Name	Marked	Ad.	D.	Res.	Sus.	Memb.
197	Weidle,	3	1	4	1		81
198	Phœnix,	7	1	4	1	1	139
199	Howell,	5	1	2	4		122
200	Columbus,	1	1	1	3		81
201	Standing Stone,	5		4			84
202	Howell,	8	2	2			62
203	Allen,	3	3	4	2	2	154
204	Anthony Wayne,			1			22
205	Factoryville,				1		30
206	Harmony,	5			1	3	50
207	Aaron,			1	1		38
208	Germantown,	4		4	1	1	158
209	Samuel C. Perkins,	1			1		66
210	Great Bend,	3			2	2	32
211	Venango,	9			1		90
212	Mound,	2			7	11	102
214	Valley,	5					60
215	Temple,	7	3	6	7	11	229
216	Zinzendorf,	1	1		1		88
217	Allegheny,	50	2	9		20	394
218	Bloomsburg,	2			1		55
219	Griscom,	3	1			3	62
220	Fort Washington,						33
221	Tremont,	1		1			63
222	Lycoming,	10	3			4	160
223	Oxford,	3				5	56
224	Corinthian,	2		1	1	1	79
225	Jefferson,	8					87
226	Siloam,	8		2			137
227	Emporium,	5			2		48
228	Clearfield,	8			3	3	91
229	Newtown,	1					31
230	Elk,	10	1		1		83
232	St. John,	12	1	11		1	232
233	Kensington,	20	4	7	1	3	454
234	Media,	5					64
235	Occidental,	8	1		3		119
236	Oil City,	7			1		80
237	Excelsior,	35		4	1	5	340
238	Newport,	1		1			47
239	Danville,	5		2	2	4	48
240	Palestine,	11	3	5	7	8	340
241	Bellefonte,	2	5	2		13	64

No.	Name	Marked	Ad	D.	Res.	Sus.	Memb.
242	Pittston,	4	1				61
243	Tristram B. Freeman,	37	4	11	1	1	585
244	Norman,	3	1	1			105
245	Abington,	8		2		1	43
246	Warrior Run,	3					36
247	Orient,	2	2	1	2	1	70
248	Temple,	4		1	2	2	169
249	Monongahela,						53
250	Corinthian,	18	1	1	3	6	255
251	Signet,	4		2	2	4	141
252	Mizpah,	2		1			61
254	Arnold,		1		2		22
255	Bedford,	2	1			4	58
256	Fernwood,	1	1		2	3	102
257	Shiloh,	23	2	1	3		343
258	Chester,	15	1	3	4		183
259	Eden,	1		1		1	63
260	Bradford,	15	13	5	6	4	210
261	Troy,	3		3			76
262	Montgomery,	6		2	1	5	99
263	Coudersport,	5					76
264	Shamokin,	2		1	1		53
265	Westfield,	1				2	31
266	Good Samaritan,						33
267	Coatesville,	3	1				65
268	Pittsburgh,	18	6	1			184
269	Ulysses,	5		2	1		35
270	Doylestown,	2	3			4	66
271	Pottstown,	4		3	1		112
272	Hebron,					2	23
273	Butler,	8	4	1	1	1	73
274	Bangor,	1		1			61
275	Kennett,	3			1		37
276	The Susquehanna,	2	1				63
277	Hazleton,	9					59
278	Catasauqua,						39
279	Kane,	8	16 (Charter)				24
		982	138	255	136	247	16,439

M. E. Companion Edgar A. Tennis, Past Grand High Priest, delivered an eloquent and appropriate memorial upon the late Companion John P. Clark, Past High Priest of Newport Royal Arch Chapter, No. 238, and for some years an active member of the Committee on Correspondence. The eulogy was listened to with marked attention, and was ordered to be printed with the Proceedings of the year.

"In Memoriam John Price Clark; Born January 27, 1830; Died May 31, 1896."

It is God's Decree that every one shall die. Death is His messenger to enforce his law, and to none is the hour of its coming known; we only know that

"Leaves have their time to fall
And flowers to wither at the north-wind's breath;
And stars to set; but all—
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death!"

Since the morn of creation to the present day, our joyous thoughts have not been without a tinge of sadness when we remember how all too quickly the scenes of to-day are buried deep in the grave of to-morrow. The idol of our heart, the joy of our life, the pride of our existence, is taken from our side like the extinguishing of a candle; yet who of us would exchange the love which survives the tomb for an unceasing song of pleasure, or for unbroken revelry? There is a voice from the tomb sweeter than song; there is a remembrance of the dead to which we turn even from the charms of the living.

The genial and helpful presence of our Companion is denied us; but his graces as a Mason, his devotion to the cause of humanity and right, his high sense of honor, and noble qualities of character, prepared him to stand before the Great Overseer to receive his wages for the designs left upon the trestleboard of life. To us who were his friends and admirers the designs speak volumes of good, and their influence will be felt upon our minds and hearts until we, too, are safely anchored within the household of the faithful.

Brother Clark, without affectation, effort or display, practised the principles and precepts of Christ and the teachings of our holy order; loving his fellow-men, exercising patience, forbearance and charity; sympathizing with the distressed, helping the needy and suffering; faithful to every duty, true to every trust, and loyal to every obligation. Of him it may truly be said

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, This *was* a man."

The subject of this sketch believed in Masonry, and in the doctrines therein taught, of the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul. His departure—quiet and peaceful as his life—is but a temporary separation from his friends on earth, who, believing and practising the same tenets, will have opened wide on life's last camping ground the inner veil of the tabernacle.

Our deceased Companion, Dr. John Price Clark, was of Quaker parentage, a son of Major Anderson Clark, and was born in Philadelphia, January 27, 1830. He was educated at Dickinson College, and was a graduate of the old Pennsylvania College, now the University of Pennsylvania; but had not practised medicine for many years. He had been a resident of Newport, Perry County, Pa., since 1854, until the date of his death, where. while assuming no superiority over his fellows, he was an acknowledged leader in the councils of his friends and neighbors; all loving and respecting him who knew him.

He was appointed Postmaster by President Hayes, November 20, 1878; and. four years later, reappointed by President Garfield; discharging his duties to the satisfaction of the Government and the patrons of the office, until his successor was named, March 31, 1887.

With a desire to acquire knowledge, he visited Pike's Peak in 1858, which in those early days of locomotion was considered a remarkable achievement.

In November, 1868, he was married to Miss Lillie Murray, of Landisburg, Perry County Pa., who alone survives him.

The Masonic record of Companion Clark further attests his knowledge, usefulness and devotion to the Fraternity of which we are all so justly proud.

On February 16, 1859, by virtue of a dispensation granted by Past Grand Master, Brother Henry M. Phillips, through Past Grand Master Brother Robert A. Lamberton, then District Deputy Grand Master, he was entered. passed and raised in Adams Lodge, No. 319, at New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa. He was elected Junior Warden, December 19, 1860, and installed December 27, 1860. He was elected Worshipful Master, December 8, 1861, and installed the same date; was re-elected Worshipful Master, December 6, 1862, installed the same date, and served out the term.

His resignation was accepted in Adams Lodge, January 18, 1865; after which he affiliated with Newport Lodge, No. 381, serving his Lodge as Secretary continuously from 1874 until his death.

The Mark Degree was conferred upon him in Mountain Chapter, No. 189, Altoona, Pa., March 17, 1859; and the Most Excellent and Royal Arch Degrees, September 1, 1859; resigning his membership December 7, 1865, to

become the first Secretary and Charter Member of Newport Chapter, No. 238, at its constitution, September 25, 1872. During the year 1874 he served as Scribe of this Chapter, in 1875 as King, and as High Priest in 1876; was re-elected Secretary in 1877, serving until his death. And during all these years, including his recent illness, he was present at all the meetings of the Chapter; his records are models of neatness and accuracy, his individuality being stamped upon all his transactions with the Constituent and Grand Bodies.

He was appointed District Deputy Grand High Priest in 1879 and 1880, by Past Grand High Priest Hamilton; reappointed in 1881 by Past Grand High Priest John; during which time new life and interest was developed in Capitular Masonry throughout his district.

Brother Clark was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for 1877 by Past Grand Master Brother Robert Clark; and reappointed for the years 1878, '79, '80, '81 and '82.

He was made a member of Mountain Council, No. 9, Altoona, Pa., February 6 1860, and admitted a member of the Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania, December 30, 1882.

In 1893 he was appointed a member of the Committee on Correspondence of this Grand Chapter, and the contributions from his table to the time of death proved the wisdom of his appointment.

The record of his life is made up, his mission has been fulfilled. Peaceful as his life has been was his approach to the deep river, the crossing of which occurred May 31, 1896.

In the life of our Companion, Masonry was a potent force; the wisdom and truth that burns like incense constantly on our altars were to him a stimulus and an inspiration; and, while the revelation of God, with its beautiful ministries for the spiritual life is the only power to fashion the highest type of manhood, we see illustrated in the life of our deceased Companion, the teachings and principles of Masonry, giving scope for the exercise of all moralities and the truths of religion. He wore the jewels of Masonry unstained; his zealous loyalty to their principles, his unswerving fidelity to whatever was in them of the true, the right, the noble, was the secret of his action in all positions of trust and duty.

The attachment of Companion Clark to Freemasonry was not a mere idle fancy, or a whim of a moment, nor was he ever indifferent to the welfare of the Fraternity; and his interest continued undiminished to the close of his life. To me, personally, he was a firm and true friend, and his heart was always warm to those who had gained his esteem and regard.

"His words were kindness, and his deeds were love, his spirit humble and his life well spent; these, then, and not a stone, shall be his monument."

A missive was received from the M. E. Grand High Priest of the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Oregon, appointing Companion Edward B. Spencer as its Representative near this Grand Chapter On motion, Companion Edward B. Spencer was acknowledged as such Representative.

A Communication was received from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, announcing the death, on February 23d, 1896, of M. E. Companion ABNER TOWNSLEY LONGLEY, Past Grand High Priest. And on May 17th, 1896, of R. E Companion LEWIS GUILLIAM STEPHENS, R. E. Grand Secretary of said Grand Chapter.

A Communication was received from the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, announcing the death, on July 19th, 1896, of M. E. OWEN ABBOTT BASSETT, Past Grand High Priest of that Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was then "called off" for the purpose of exemplifying the Royal Arch Degree.

A Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened, and the Royal Arch Degree was exemplified by the Grand Officers.

The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was closed

The Grand Chapter was then "called on."

The Grand Chapter was closed in peace at nine o'clock and thirty minutes, P. M.

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 3, 1896.

PRESENT:

Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT . . . . . *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON . . . . *M. E. Grand King.*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS . . . . . *M E. Grand Scribe*
" THOMAS R. PATTON . . . . . *M E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY . . . . . *M. E. Grand Secretary*
" THOMAS S. WOODBURY . . *as Grand Chaplain.*
" L HASSELL LAPP . . . . . *Grand Captain of the Host.*
" EDWIN H COANE . . . . . *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
" SAMUEL I. GIVIN . . . . . *Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
" FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY . . *Grand Master of the Third Vail.*
" FRANK P. MASON . . . . . *Grand Master of the Second Vail.*
" ADAM H SCHMEHL . . . . . *Grand Master of the First Vail.*
" LEWIS S. WESSELS . . . . . *Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FORREST E. GORDON . . . . *Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FRANK M. HIGHLEY . . . *Grand Pursuivant.*
" SAMUEL W. WRAY . . . . . *Grand Tyler.*

District Deputy Grand High Priests.—Comps. JOHN MCKAIN, CURTIS G. CAMPBELL, STEPHEN H. APPLETON, JOHN H SHOPP, THADDEUS S. ADLE, ALBERT R. HOOVER, CHRISTIAN A. SEIDEL. DANIEL Z. WALKER, GEORGE P. LINDSAY, CALEB C. THOMPSON, JOHN M SCHRAM, DANIEL B. ELSE, FREDERICK L. BROWN, MARTIN L SHAFFNER, ALURED P. BURTON, ALFRED F. HENLEIN. JOHN W. FARNSWORTH, CYRUS H. BLOOD.

Past Grand High Priests.—M. E Comps. GEORGE E WAGNER, HIBBERT P. JOHN, GEORGE W KENDRICK, JR., MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, JAMES S. BARBER, EDGAR A. TENNIS.

Grand Representatives

Comp. EDWARD J. JAMES, of Grand Chapter of Alabama.
" WILLIAM J. KELLY, of Grand Chapter of Arkansas.
" J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Grand Chapter of California.

Comp. THOMAS R. PATTON, of Grand Chapters of Canada and Scotland.
" JAMES S. BARBER, of Grand Chapters of Delaware and N. Carolina.
" DAVID B. TAYLOR, of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.
" GEORGE E. WAGNER, of Grand Mark Lodge of England.
" GEORGE B. WELLS, of Grand Chapter of Illinois.
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.
" JOSHUA L LYTE, of Grand Chapter of Iowa.
" SAMUEL W. WRAY, of Grand Chapter of Kansas.
" EDGAR A TENNIS, of Grand Chapter of Kentucky.
" ALEXANDER MCCUNE, of Grand Chapter of Maine.
" MARTIN L. SHAFFNER, of Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.
" N. FERREE LIGHTNER, of Grand Chapter of Minnesota.
" HENRY J MCCARTHY, of Grand Chapter of Missouri.
" GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., of Grand Chapter of Nebraska.
" ISAAC N. GRUBB, of Grand Chapter of Nevada.
" JOSEPH EICHBAUM, of Grand Chapter of New Hampshire.
" EZRA S. BARTLETT, of Grand Chapter of New Jersey.
" CHARLES CARY, of Grand Chapter of New York.
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, of Grand Chapter of North Dakota
" JOHN MCKAIN, of Grand Chapter of Oregon.
" ELLSWORTH H. HULTS, of Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.
" HARRY M. VAN ZANDT. of Grand Chapter of South Dakota.
" HIBBERT P JOHN, of Grand Chapter of Tennessee.
" WILLIAM A. SINN, of Grand Chapter of Texas.
" LOUIS WAGNER, of Grand Chapter of Vermont.
" CONRAD B DAY, of Grand Chapter of Virginia.
" JOHN KELLER, of Grand Chapter of Washington.
" JOHN C. WALLACE, of Grand Chapter of West Virginia.
" L. HASSELL LAPP, of Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

Chapters No. 3, 21, 43, 52, 91, 150, 152, 159, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185, 186, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 209, 210, 212, 214, 215, 216 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, 239 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 250, 251, 252, 255, 256, 257, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 267, 268, 269, 271, 275, 276, 279.—96 Chapters.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form at three o'clock, P. M.

The minutes of the Quarterly Communication, held on Thursday, September 3d, 1896, were read and approved.

By-Laws were received from Chapters No. 150 and 244, and an Amendment to By-Laws from Chapter No. 198, which were referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

A Petition was received from Companion J. B., a member of Chapter No. 178, at the time of the sequestration of the Warrant of said Chapter, asking the Grand Chapter to restore him to Good Masonic Standing. On motion, it was "*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition be granted."

A Petition was received from Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, requesting the Grand Chapter to remove the Expulsion of Companion J. W.—expelled from said Chapter on April 24th, 1871. On motion, duly made and seconded, it was "*Resolved*, That the prayer of the Petition be granted, and that Companion J. W be restored to Good Masonic Standing."

A Petition was received from Chapter No. 175, asking permission to receive and act on the Petition for Degrees and Membership of Brother I. L. M., rejected in Chapter No. 190. On motion, it was "*Resolved*, That permission be granted, under the usual restrictions."

A Petition was received from Chapter No. 183, asking permission to receive and act on the Petition

for Degrees and Membership of Brother E. G. E., rejected in Chapter No. 199. On motion, it was "*Resolved*, That permission be granted, under the usual restrictions."

The Committee on Work and Jurisprudence reported as follows:

PHILADELPHIA, December 3d, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS: The Committee on Work and Jurisprudence beg leave to report that nothing has been submitted to the Committee, consequently they have held no meeting. The Work is progressing in a highly satisfactory manner, and from the reports we receive we find it to be uniform throughout the State.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR.
HIBBERT P. JOHN,
GEORGE E. WAGNER,
JAMES S. BARBER,
Committee.

The Committee on Finance presented the following Quarterly Report:

PHILADELPHIA, November 27th, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS: The Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the books of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton, and the books of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Companion Charles Cary, from August 28th to November 20th, 1896, and find them correct and agreeing with their vouchers, showing:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, August 28th, 1896		$2,638 34
Received from Chapters		739 60
" Interest on Masonic Loan		400 00
" Interests on Deposits		24 77
" Dispensation		1 00
" Constitution		3 00
" Certificate		2 00
		$3,808 71

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest	$1,379 20	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, &c.	49 46	
Salaries	1,187 50	
Furniture	2 45	
		2,618 61
Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer		$1,190 10

(Signed),

WILLIAM J. KELLY,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÈ
SAMUEL W. WRAY,
CHARLES W. PACKER,
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS.

The Committee on Finance presented the following Annual Report:

PHILADELPHIA, December 3d, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS: The Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the books of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton, and the books of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Companion Charles Cary, from November 20th, 1895, to November 20th, 1896, and find them correct and agreeing with their vouchers, showing:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand November 20th, 1895	$ 655 57
Dues and Fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges	6.902 90
Interest on Masonic Loan	800 00
Interest on Deposits of Grand Treasurer	56 17
Sale of Constitutions	27 00
" Dispensations	6 00
" Certificates	6 00
	$8,453 64

PAYMENTS.

Masonic Home of Pennsylvania	$ 500 00	
Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest	1,930 70	
Expenses of D. D Grand High Priests	544 07	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, &c.	1,197 76	
Rent	1,500 00	
Salaries	1,300 00	
Masonic Clothing and Furniture	251 01	
Tuning and Care of Organ	40 00	7,263 54
Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer		$1,190 10
Due from Chapters, November 20th, 1896,	$353 65	
Due to Chapters, November 20th, 1896	3 85	

We have examined the Investments held by the M. E. Grand Treasurer, amounting to Twenty Thousand Dollars, ($20,000.00) all of which are bonds of the four per cent. Masonic Loan, in the name of "The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania," and found them correct.

The Committee present the following estimate of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending November 20th, 1897:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand November 20th, 1896	$1,190 10
Dues and Fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges	6,250 00
Interest on Investments	800 00
Sale of Constitutions, Certificates, etc.	35 00
Charter Fee	100 00
	$8,375 10

$8,375 10

PAYMENTS.

Masonic Home of Pennsylvania	$ 500 00	
Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest	2,000 00	
Expenses of D. D. Grand High Priests	700 00	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc.	1,800 00	
Rent	1,500 00	
Salaries	1,300 00	
Masonic Clothing, Furniture, etc.	300 00	
Tuning and Care of Organ	40 00	$8,140 00
Showing a surplus of		$235 10

The Committee offer the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the M. E. Grand High Priest be, and he is hereby authorized, to draw his warrants on the M. E. Grand Treasurer for the amounts named in the foregoing estimate as they become due and payable.

(Signed)

WILLIAM J. KELLY,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
SAMUEL W. WRAY,
CHARLES W. PACKER,
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS,
Committee

The Report was accepted as read, and, on motion, the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on By-Laws presented the following Report, which was accepted, and the accompanying Resolution was, on motion, adopted:

PHILADELPHIA, December 3d, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS: Your Committee on By-Laws respectfully report that they have examined the proposed Amendment to By-Laws of Chapter No. 198, and offer the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the proposed Amendment to By-Laws of Phœnix Chapter, No. 198, be approved.

(Signed)
CHARLES P. KEECH,
JOSEPH M. WIATT,
LOUIS M. WAGNER,
Committee.

This being the time fixed by the Constitution for the election of Grand Officers, the M. E. Grand High Priest, after declining a re-election, was pleased to appoint Tellers, who having reported, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest declared the following-named Companions duly elected to serve for the ensuing Masonic year.

M. E. Comp. RICHARD M. JOHNSON . . *M. E. Grand High Priest*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS . . . *M. E. Grand King.*
" EDWARD B. SPENCER . . *M. E. Grand Scribe.*
" THOMAS R. PATTON . . . *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY . . . . . *M. E. Grand Secretary.*

A Missive was received from the M. E. Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama, appointing Companion Edward J. James as its Representative near this Grand Chapter. On motion, Companion Edward J. James was acknowledged as such Representative.

A Missive was received from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina, appointing Companion Joseph M. Wiatt as its Representative near this Grand Chapter. On motion, Companion Joseph M. Wiatt was acknowledged as such Representative.

A Communication was read from the Grand Chapter of Quebec, announcing the death, on August

15th, 1896, of R. E. Companion ANGUS GRANT, Past Grand 2d Principal H. of that Grand Chapter.

A Communication was read from the Grand Chapter of Ohio, R. A. M., announcing the death, on November 11th, 1896, of Rev. Companion THOMAS J. MELISH, E. Grand Chaplain of said Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution presented the following:

PHILADELPHIA, December 3d, 1896.

To The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

COMPANIONS:—The undersigned, Committee on Revision of the Constitution, beg leave to report, for your consideration and adoption, the following:

Resolved:—That the Constitution reported by the Committee at the Quarterly Communication, held September 3d, 1896, be, and the same is hereby, adopted.

Resolved:—That the Constitution as adopted shall take effect and go into operation on St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24th, 1897.

Resolved:—That the Committee on Revision be continued, with power to draft the necessary Forms, Ceremonials, &c., in accordance with the revised Constitution.

Resolved:—That the Grand Secretary be directed to prepare a Form of Minutes; and the Committee on By-Laws be directed to prepare a Form of By-Laws, in accordance with the revised Constitution.

Resolved:—That each Chapter be and is hereby, directed to forward to the Grand Secretary a copy of its By-Laws on or before August 1st, 1897, so that corrections can be made by the Committee on By-Laws, if any be necessary.

Resolved:—That every Chapter hereafter adopting a code of By-Laws, shall use the Form prepared by the Grand Chapter.

Resolved:—That the Grand Secretary be, and is hereby directed, to have the revised Constitution, with the Forms, Ceremonials, &c., printed and

bound and forward four copies to each Chapter in this Jurisdiction, with instructions to such Chapters to return to him the copies of the Constitution they now have.

The price of the book shall, in other cases, be $1 00 each.

Fraternally submitted,

(Signed) EZRA S. BARTLETT,
RICHARD M JOHNSON,
MICHAEL W. JACOBS,
THOMAS R. PATTON,
CHARLES CARY,
GEORGE E. WAGNER,
JAMES S. BARBER,
WILLIAM J. KELLY,
J. SIMPSON AFRICA,
EDGAR A. TENNIS,
Committee.

On motion, the several Resolutions, as offered, were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Companion Louis Wagner, it was

Resolved, That the Committee have authority to make such verbal corrections in the Constitution, before publication, as they may deem necessary.

On motion of Companion Conrad B. Day, and at the suggestion of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton, it was

Resolved, That The Union Trust Company of Philadelphia be accepted as security on the bond of the M. E. Grand Treasurer.

The following Certificate was read:

PHILADELPHIA. December 2, 1896.

Charles Cary, Esq., M. E. Grand Secretary,
Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

M. E. SIR AND COMPANION: "At the Stated Meeting of St. John Chapter, No. 232, held December 1st, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426, this being the time fixed by the Constitution of the Grand Chapter for the election of Officers, * * * Companion Charles Crane, Jr., was duly elected M. E. High Priest."

Extract from the Minutes.

[SEAL] (Signed) WILLIAM F. TRACY,
Secretary.

All the Companions present, who had not received the Order of High-Priesthood having retired, Companion Charles Crane, Jr., was duly installed as High Priest of St. John Royal Arch Chapter, No 232, and had the Order of High-Priesthood conferred upon him.

The Companions who had retired were readmitted.

The Grand Chapter was closed in peace at six o'clock, P. M.

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1896. A. I. 426.

PRESENT:

Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT . . . . . *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
" RICHARD M. JOHNSON . . *M. E. Grand King.*
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS . . . . *M. E. Grand Scribe.*
" THOMAS R. PATTON . . . . . *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY . . . . . *M. E. Grand Secretary.*
" STEPHEN H. APPLETON . . *D. D. Grand High Priest.*
" REV. HENRY S. GETZ . . . . *Grand Chaplain.*
" L. HASSELL LAPP . . . . . *Grand Captain of the Host.*
" EDWIN H COANE . . . . . *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
" SAMUEL I GIVIN . . . . . *Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
" FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY . *Grand Master of the Third Vail.*
" FRANK P. MASON . . . . . *Grand Master of the Second Vail.*
" ADAM H. SCHMEHL . . . . . *Grand Master of the First Vail.*
" ROBERT J. LINDEN . . . . . *Grand Marshal.*
" LEWIS S. WESSELS . . . . . *Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FORREST E. GORDON . . . . *Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.*
" FRANK M. HIGHLEY . . . . *Grand Pursuivant.*
" SAMUEL W. WRAY . . . . . *Grand Tyler.*

Past Grand High Priests:—M. E. Comps. GEORGE E. WAGNER, HIBBERT P. JOHN, GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, JAMES S. BARBER, EDGAR A. TENNIS.

Grand Representatives.

Comp. EDWARD J. JAMES, of Grand Chapter of Alabama.
" WILLIAM J. KELLY, of Grand Chapter of Arkansas.
" THOMAS R. PATTON, of Grand Chapters of Canada and Scotland.
" JAMES S BARBER, of Grand Chapters of Delaware and N. Carolina.
" DAVID B. TAYLOR, of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.
" GEORGE E. WAGNER, of Grand Mark Lodge of England.
" GEORGE B. WELLS, of Grand Chapter of Illinois.

Comp. RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.
" JOSHUA L. LYTE, of Grand Chapter of Iowa.
" SAMUEL W. WRAY, of Grand Chapter of Kansas.
" EDGAR A. TENNIS of Grand Chapter of Kentucky.
" ALEXANDER MCCUNE, of Grand Chapter of Maine.
" GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., of Grand Chapter of Nebraska.
" EZRA S. BARTLETT, of Grand Chapter of New Jersey.
" CHARLES CARY, of Grand Chapter of New York.
" MICHAEL W. JACOBS, of Grand Chapter of North Dakota.
" EDWARD B SPENCER, of Grand Chapter of Oregon.
" ELLSWORTH H. HULTS, of Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.
" JOSEPH M. WIATT, of Grand Chapter of South Carolina.
" HIBBERT P. JOHN, of Grand Chapter of Tennessee.
" WILLIAM A. SINN, of Grand Chapter of Texas.
" LOUIS WAGNER. of Grand Chapter of Vermont.
" L HASSELL LAPP, of Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

Chapters No. 3. 21, 43, 52, 91, 169, 173, 175, 176, 181, 183, 185, 196, 202, 208, 220, 226, 232, 234, 237, 238, 240, 243, 244, 245, 248, 250, 251, 256, 262, 266, 271—32 Chapters.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form at six o'clock, P. M.

General Returns were received from a number of Chapters and Mark Lodges, which were ordered to be entered and filed.

A Communication was received from the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut, announcing the death, on November 11th, 1896, of M. E. Companion JOHN SHERMAN CASTLE, Past Grand High Priest of that Grand Chapter.

The M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, presented the following as his

ANNUAL REPORT.

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER: Scarcely can we realize that another year, with the joys and griefs, hopes and fears, failures and successes that come to us all, has so swiftly passed; that another page in the history of Grand Chapter has been unalterably written. Yet true it is that, in the providence of God, we are again met in Annual Grand Communication to perform the duties devolving upon us incident to the time and the occasion.

It is now my duty, made so by custom, to render you an account of my stewardship, and my last official act—to install the Companion you have chosen my successor, surrendering to him the emblem of the sacred trust that you have so generously and unanimously reposed in me during the past two years.

Each year in the past history of Grand Chapter has shown marked improvement in growth and material prosperity over the preceding one, and this is true of the year just closing, notwithstanding the unchanged congested condition of the business world. Peace and harmony reign both within and without our jurisdictional lines, and with the anticipated improved business conditions and the growing interest manifested in the work and teachings of the Capitular Degrees, the incoming year bids fair to excel any that has preceded it. The field is large and the harvest plentiful, for upon comparing the last Reports of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, we find there are about 33,000 more Master Masons than there are Royal Arch Masons in this Jurisdiction.

In a retrospect of the past, our hearts swell in thankfulness to a beneficent Providence, whose watchful care has ever been

over us, whose guidance and support we devoutly invoke for all future years. May we not in the light of His goodness to us humbly bend the knee, and worship and praise the Lord, "for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever."

The Dead.

While we bow in humble submission "to the will of Him who doeth all things well," and from whose decree "dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return," there is no escape, yet we mourn the loss of many dear Companions who have been called to pay the last call of nature, and have been laid in the silent grave, there to await the last grand summons.

That death loves a shining mark is truly impressed upon us when glancing over the list of the loved and respected dead of our own and sister Grand Chapters. While all the elective and all the floor officers of my appointment have been spared to us, yet the Angel of Death has taken from us several esteemed Companions who were connected with the Grand Chapter in other official relations, and performing most acceptably the duties of the respective positions to which they had been appointed.

Comp. M. E. Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet, died on the seventh day of May, 1896, at his home in this city, after an illness of only two days. He was a member and P. H. P. of Oriental R. A. Chapter, No. 183. He was buried with Masonic Honors on the eleventh day of May, the Ceremonies of the Craft being performed by the Officers of the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of Pennsylvania.

Comp. Nisbet, in his active Masonic life of nearly half a century, filled with recognized skill and ability almost every

elective office in the Grand and Subordinate Bodies of Ancient Craft and Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and was ever conspicuous as a learned, earnest and zealous worker for the good of Freemasonry. He was well known and highly respected throughout the Masonic World, and as a man and a citizen he was justly held in high esteem. At the time of his death he was a member of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. John Price Clark died May 31st, 1896. He was a member and Past High Priest of Newport R. A. Chapter No. 238. At the time of his death he was a member of the Committee on Correspondence of Grand Chapter, having been appointed upon that Committee in 1893. He, too, was a lover of Freemasonry, and his best efforts were given to the work of that Committee up to the time of his death.

Official notification has been received and announced in Grand Chapter of the death of the following distinguished Companions:

M. E. Comp. Z. Ellis Coombes, P. G. H. P., Texas.

" " Charles Van Swearingen Levy, P. G. H. P., Maryland.

M. E. Comp. Rees Gibbon Williams, P. G. H. P., New York.

" " Rev. George Washington Dame, D. D., P. G. H. P. and Grand Chaplain, Virginia.

M. E. Comp. Henry Flavel Gillette, P. G. H. P., Texas.

" " Abner Townsley Longley, P. G. H. P., District of Columbia.

R. E. Comp. Lewis Guilliam Stephens, Grand Secretary, District of Columbia.

M. E. Comp. Owen Abbott Bassett, P. G. H. P., Kansas.

R. E. Comp. Angus Grant, P. G. 2d Principal H., Quebec.
" Rev. Thos. J. Melish, Grand Chaplain, Ohio.
M. E. Comp. John Sherman Castle, P. G. H. P., Connecticut.

To the bereaved ones, friends, relatives and Companions of those who have been called, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

"Gone unto that Land, upon whose peaceful shore
There rests no shadow, falls no stain,
Where those who meet shall part no more,
And those long parted meet again."

District Deputies.

Early in the year I prepared, and forwarded to the District Deputy Grand High Priests, a blank form for Report, to be filled up and returned to me immediately after making a visitation. This has been the means of obtaining much valuable information regarding the condition of the several Chapters visited, and a source of great satisfaction to the Grand High Priest, enabling him to keep in touch at all times with the workings of the Chapters throughout the whole Jurisdiction.

These reports have accomplished at least two results: First, they have shown the commendable work and zeal of a most efficient corps of District Deputies. Secondly, the detailed matter called for and given in the report, demonstrates that there are Chapters existing that might cease to exist without any injury to the Craft, that have become useless appendages to this Grand Chapter, performing in a perfunctory manner the constitutional requirements, and just evading the disciplinary point; maintaining their organization apparently only for the purpose of making members of "Grand Chapter," officers and members alike indifferent; meetings therefore irregularly held, and when held, "open, read the minutes and close."

I am thankful that there are but two instances of this kind brought to my attention, and deeply regret to note any. Have endeavored by kindly advice, counsel and warning, to instill new life and incite the officers and members to earnest effort to improve the conditions, and now commend them to the watchful care of my successor. The Annual Reports of the District Deputies, as they come to me, are read with much interest and pleasure, inasmuch as they evidence that interest and love for the work they are engaged in, without which the purposes of their appointment would fail.

Representatives.

While the question of the utility of the Representative System is being discussed by many of the learned Companions throughout the Masonic World, some Grand Jurisdictions (one at least) having by resolution declined to make such appointments; yet we are among those who believe that the sentiment expressed and conveyed: "That the ties of brotherly affection may be strengthened, the prosperity of the Masonic fraternity promoted, its unity, integrity and strength protected, and honor confirmed by the appointment and reception of Grand Representatives from each Grand Chapter to the other," makes the Act of Appointment itself a strong argument and sufficient ground for its continuance; there surely can be no harm come from it. We note and record with pleasure the presence of the Representatives of our Sister Grand Chapters at all our Communications, who are all Companions of high standing in the Craft. We recognize and encourage the sentiment which their presence implies as existing, which surely is no fictitious one. We approve the system, and in the exercise of the constitutional power vested, "to appoint Representatives in Grand

Chapters of other Jurisdictions," have commissioned the following-named Companions as Representatives of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania near their respective Grand Chapters, whose appointments have been duly received and acknowledged, viz.:

Comp. James E. Humphrey, near the Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.

Comp. George L. Wellington, near the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

Have also received and acknowledged the appointment of the following as Representatives near this Grand Chapter, viz.:

Comp. Edward B. Spencer, representing the Grand Chapter of Oregon.

Comp. Edward J. James, representing the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

Comp. Joseph M. Wiatt, representing the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

Decisions.

I have been called upon during the year to render but one or two decisions that would not have answered themselves, upon an intelligent reading of the Constitution of Grand Chapter.

Just here for the information of those who seem to believe that the powers of the Grand High Priest are unlimited, who should know better, and who are disposed to become critics, if their requests are not granted, let me say, that the Grand High Priest has not the power to set aside a Constitutional Law, nor the power of setting aside the By-Laws of a Subordinate

Chapter. As an obligated Executive Officer his is the duty to see that they are *not* evaded or set aside; that they are obeyed.

The following might be more properly classed as "Questions Answered," rather than decisions interpreting obscure laws.

1. Declined to grant permission for a Chapter to act upon a petition not received at a stated meeting one month prior.

2. The hour for recording the opening of a Chapter is the exact time when the High Priest takes his station for the purpose of opening.

3. In the case of a Chapter that had elected a Companion as both High Priest and Treasurer, I set aside as null and void the election for High Priest. "No Companion can hold more than one elective office in a Subordinate Chapter at the same time." The Companion was eligible for election as "Treasurer" but not for "High Priest," as he had not been elected and served as King or Scribe of a Chapter in this Jurisdiction, as required by the Constitution.

4. A Companion suspended for non-payment of dues, cannot be restored to membership and made a Life Member without the payment of the amount of dues owing at the time of suspension, and the Life-membership fee called for by its By-Laws. No part of dues owing and paid by a suspended member can be applied to the payment of a Life-membership fee.

5. Restoration to membership of a suspended Royal Arch Mason, either in his Chapter or Lodge of Mark Master Masons, does not restore the official relations that may have existed in either body at the time of suspension. Office can only be again acquired either by election or appointment.

6. Chapters that did not install their High Priest, on or before St. John the Evangelist's Day, have been notified that these Companions do not become permanent members of the Grand Chapter.

7. Refused to grant a dispensation to elect a Secretary; a Companion having been duly elected and installed and residing in the Jurisdiction, but temporarily prevented from serving owing to illness.

8. Declined to grant a dispensation and permit an election for Officers of a Chapter to be held at a special meeting.

Dispensations.

At the request of the following-named Chapters, dispensations were granted during the year, as follows:

To Chapters 242, 163 and 183, to elect a Treasurer.

" 241 and 43, to elect a Secretary.

To Chapter 192, to continue its labors pending an application to Grand Chapter for a duplicate warrant, the original having been destroyed by fire.

Resignations and Appointments.

March 30th. Accepted the resignation, for business reasons, of Comp. Charles F. Derr, District Deputy Grand High Priest, of District No. 9, for the County of Schuylkill, and appointed as his successor, Comp. Christian A. Seidel, of Chapter No. 196, Pottsville.

May 31st. Accepted the resignation of Comp. William A. Sinn, as Grand Tyler, and appointed as his successor Comp. Samuel W. Wray.

Comp. Sinn served this Grand Chapter for more than eleven years, with the faithfulness and ability characteristic of the man, resigning after accepting the office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of Pennsylvania, by appointment of the R. W. Grand Master, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Comp. M. E. Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet, an appointment, I am happy to note, which received the almost unanimous endorsement of Grand Lodge.

I have appointed Comp. James H. Codding, of Chapter No. 161, Towanda, to fill the vacancy upon the Committee on Correspondence, caused by the death of Comp. John Price Clark.

I have appointed Comp. M. E. Past Grand High Priest Edgar A. Tennis, of Chapter No. 238, to fill the vacancy upon the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, caused by the death of Comp. M. E. Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet.

Grand Visitations.

Having arranged for a series of Grand Visitations to the Chapters at New Castle, Butler, Allegheny, Harrisburg and Gettysburg; left Philadelphia, October 25th, at 7 A. M., accompanied by the following Grand Officers and Companions, viz.:

Comp. Richard M. Johnson, M. E. Grand King.
" Charles Cary, M. E. Grand Secretary.
" Francis H. Hemperley, Grand Master of the 3d Vail.
" Frank P. Mason, Grand Master of the 2d Vail.
" Adam H. Schmehl, Grand Master of the 1st Vail.
" Lewis S. Wessels, Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.
" Forrest E. Gordon, Jun. Grand Master of Ceremonies.

Comps. Edward B. Spencer, George B. Wells, Benjamin Eiseman, Carl A. Sundstrom, Arthur H. Woodward, N. Ferree Lightner, Charles W. Packer and William R. Frazier. The M. E. Grand Scribe, Comp. Michael W. Jacobs, and the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Thomas R. Patton, were unable to be with us; one prevented by exacting and pressing engagements, the other prudently declined, fearing the fatigue of the trip might be prejudicial to his then good health.

Arriving at New Castle as scheduled, October 26th, were met at the station by R. W. Grand Master and Past G. H. Priest, M. E. Comp. Matthias H. Henderson, Comp. Alfred F. Henlein, D. D. G. H. P., Comp. Edgar E. Seavey, High Priest, and others, and in carriages driven to the hotel.

In the evening at 7.30 o'clock, made a Grand Visitation to Delta R. A. Chapter No. 170, Comp. Edgar E. Seavey, High Priest. After a report upon the minutes by the Grand Secretary, the "Mark Master Masons" and the "Most Excellent Master Masons'" Degrees were conferred by Comp. Richard M. Johnson, M. E. Grand King, assisted by the Grand Officers. After interesting and fraternal remarks the Chapter was closed, and the Companions invited to partake of refreshments, which were highly enjoyed and appreciated.

On the following morning (October 27th) left New Castle and arrived at Butler at 12.20 P. M. Companions William C. Thompson, D. D. Grand High Priest and Richard S. Nichols, High Priest, were in waiting with carriages to escort us to our headquarters.

In the evening a Grand Visitation was made to Butler R. A. Chapter No. 273, Comp. Richard S. Nichols, High Priest. After the brief report of the M. E. Grand Secretary upon the

Minutes, the Royal Arch Degree was conferred by the M. E. Grand King, assisted by the Grand Officers. This Chapter is in a prosperous condition, ably officered, and the members evidently imbued with the thought that they, as well as their officers, owe a duty to their Chapter. We here partook of the generous hospitality of the Companions, at a banquet prepared and served by the ladies of the "Butler Public Library Association;" this closing a meeting of delightful remembrances and associations.

Wednesday evening, October 28th, a Grand Visitation was made to Allegheny R. A. Chapter No. 217, Comp. Henry F. Gilg, High Priest. This meeting was largely attended, seventeen Chapters of Pennsylvania and three of other Jurisdictions being represented.

The report of the Grand Secretary upon the Minutes was highly complimentary to the Secretary, as well as showing the satisfactory condition of the Chapter, it having an invested fund of over $10,000 and a membership of 394. The Royal Arch Degree by the M. E. Grand King, assisted by the King and Scribe of the Chapter and the Grand Officers, was the work of the evening. Comp. John McKain, D D. Grand High Priest, as M. E. Grand Scribe, accompanied the Grand Officers at this visit.

Thursday evening, October 29th, made a Grand Visitation to Perseverance R. A. Chapter No. 21, Harrisburg, Comp. Joseph Pomeroy, High Priest. The attendance was large, eighteen Chapters of Pennsylvania being represented. The work of the evening was the rehearsal of the Mark Master Mason's Degree, which was ably and accurately performed by

Frank P. Coates, Scribe, assisted by the officers of the Chapter, which they did at their own request.

This Chapter is to be commended for the efficiency of its officers and the interest manifested by both officers and members. Comp. Michael W. Jacobs, M. E. Grand Scribe, Comp. John H. Shopp, D. D. Grand High Priest, and the officers of the Chapter did all in their power to make our short stay with them a pleasant one. A banquet followed at the close of the Chapter.

Friday evening, October 29th, an official Grand Visitation was made to Good Samaritan R. A. Chapter, No. 266, Gettysburg, Comp. William H. Tipton, High Priest, Comp. George M. Walter, Scribe, Acting High Priest. After the ceremonies incident thereto, Comp. Richard M. Johnson, M. E. Grand King, conferred the "Mark Master Mason's" Degree, and the M. E. Grand High Priest the "Most Excellent Master Mason's" Degree upon two candidates.

While the attendance was not large, the Chapter being comparatively young and small in numbers, the attention and interest by the Companions present was manifest, and I have the assurance of both Companions Winfield S. Schroder, P. H. P., and George J. Benner, P. H. P., of this Chapter, that this visit has caused a reawakening among the members; that the good effects are immeasurable and will be lasting. Let us fervently hope that this will be so.

With this visitation ended the series, five Chapters and as many Districts visited, the associations, fraternal expressions and experiences of which, I am sure, will ever remain dear and pleasant memories to all who accompanied me. I entered upon these visits imbued with the thought of being helpful to

the Chapters in the several Districts to be visited. In this spirit I addressed the Companions, and found them ever appreciative and responsive, and believe that lasting beneficial results therefrom will inure to the Chapters visited.

In addition to the above, accompanied by the M. E. Grand King and M. E. Grand Secretary, I have made a number of informal visitations to the Chapters in Philadelphia and vicinity, as follows:—

Jan.	7th, Tristram B. Freeman,		No. 243
	13th, Reading,	(Reading),	" 152
Feb.	4th, St. John,	(25th Anniversary),	" 232
	14th, Palestine,		" 240
	17th, Germantown,		" 208
Mar.	30th, Howell,	(West Chester),	" 202
June	1st, Media,	(Media, 25th Anniversary),	" 234
Sep.	26th, Fort Washington,	(Fort Washington),	" 220
	28th, Kensington,		" 233
Nov.	11th, Philadelphia,		" 169
	16th, Jerusalem,		" 3
	17th, Temple,		" 248
	19th, Oriental,		" 183
	24th, Lackawanna,	(Scranton),	" 185
Dec.	1st, St. John,		" 232
	7th, Keystone,		" 175
	11th, Easton,	(Easton),	" 173
	16th, Columbia,		" 91

Without entering into details, I take pleasure in reporting that I find the methods and work of these Chapters of a high character (with one exception, No. 220), the opening and business being conducted with dignity and dispatch, the Officers

well selected, competent and intelligent, an activity and interest shown which augurs well for the future of these several bodies.

Early in the year, at the request of the officers of Hebron R. A. Chapter, No. 272, at Meyersdale, Comp. Richard M. Johnson, M. E. Grand King, spent several days with them, giving desired instruction in the several Degrees. In a report to me of this visit, he expresses his confidence in the ability of the Companions of Hebron Chapter to confer the Capitular Degrees correctly, and prophesies for the Chapter a bright and prosperous future.

Work.

As one of the means for the attainment of that uniformity in work so much desired, during the year each of the Capitular Degrees has been exemplified in Grand Chapter by the Grand Officers.

March Quarterly,	Mark Master Mason's Degree.
June Quarterly,	M. E. Master Mason's Degree.
September Quarterly,	Royal Arch Degree.
December Quarterly,	Order of High Priesthood.

Thus enabling the officers of Subordinate Chapters and the District Deputy Grand High Priests, to whom this occasion might be their opportunity, to correct existing inaccuracies in their work. These exemplifications in conjunction with the "Schools of Instruction" now existing and forming throughout the jurisdiction, appeal to me as the real and practical method of attaining the long-sought-for ideal results.

Invitation.

An invitation was received from M. E. Comp. Joseph E. Fulper, Grand High Priest, to attend the Fortieth Annual

Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of New Jersey, which I was regretfully compelled to decline.

Waiver of Jurisdiction.

Waiver of Jurisdiction has been granted in all cases asked for.

Finances.

The report of this Committee shows a healthy financial condition, the income sufficient to meet all requirements; a conservative estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the incoming fiscal year, showing a balance on the right side of the account, the invested fund intact, and the securities unchanged.

The donation to "The Masonic Home of Pennsylvania," still finds a place among the estimated expenditures, and we trust that this item may ever continue to be classed as among the fixed charges of Grand Chapter.

Revision.

At the Communication of Grand Chapter, held March 5th, 1896, a resolution was adopted, for the appointment of a Committee of Five to act in conjunction with the elective officers, for the purpose of revising the Constitution. In the appointment of that Committee, I selected Companions well known to the Fraternity throughout the Jurisdiction, whose ability and knowledge of Masonic Law, Custom and Usage, were beyond question. The wisdom of my selection is best proven by the unanimous adoption of the work of their hands as submitted to Grand Chapter at its last Quarterly Communication.

While the Revised Constitution is in no sense the product of any one member, yet I feel that I voice the sentiment of the others of the Committee, when I say that we feel highly indebted, and credit should be given to M. E. Past Grand High Priest, Comp. George E. Wagner, Chairman, whose guiding hand directed; and to Comp. J. Simpson Africa, whose ripe experience and voluntary assumption of details that of necessity must fall upon some *one*, lightened the labors of all, and made easy the important work assigned us.

Conclusion.

Companions, I have thus briefly outlined to you my official acts. They have been comparatively few and seemingly commonplace, but such as they have been, I am conscious of having given my best efforts to their performance, which, while they may not meet all your expectations, I am certain satisfy your requirements. During the years of my administration, two important matters have engaged our attention, one the Centennial Anniversary of this Grand Chapter, celebrated in a manner commensurate with the importance of the event; the other, the satisfactory revision of the Constitution long contemplated; and which I now confidently predict will meet all requirements for many years to come.

The fraternal relations heretofore existing with our Sister Grand Chapters remain unchanged. Many kindly words and expressions of congratulation come to us through the Official Reports, which we now gratefully acknowledge and reciprocate.

In conclusion, permit me to repeat the oft-expressed thought of my deep sense of obligation to you, my Companions, for the honors you have conferred upon me. To the Elective

Officers and to all the Officers and Committees of my selection, I gratefully acknowledge their services, so willingly and so ably rendered me. To the M. E. Grand King and M. E. Grand Secretary, to whom the greater opportunities have come, I desire particularly to express my thanks and acknowledgments for the valuable assistance given me at all times.

May the future of Grand Chapter be ever upward and onward, pursuing and fulfilling its mission through its sublime lessons and teachings of love and reverence to God, the Father, and love and fraternity to man, the Brother; and to you, Companions, may "the Lord of Peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

So much of the Minutes of the Quarterly Communication held on Thursday, December 3d, 1896, as relates to the election of Grand Officers, was read.

All the Companions present who had not received the Order of High-Priesthood having retired,

Companion RICHARD M. JOHNSON was installed as *Most Excellent Grand High Priest of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging;* was duly proclaimed as such, and received the salutations of the Craft.

The Companions who had retired were readmitted, when the following Grand Officers were severally installed, and were each duly proclaimed, and received the salutations of the Craft :

Comp. MICHAEL W. JACOBS, ... *M. E. Grand King.*
" EDWARD B. SPENCER, ... *M. E. Grand Scribe.*
" THOMAS R PATTON, ... *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*
" CHARLES CARY, ... *M. E. Grand Secretary.*

The M E. Grand High Priest, Companion Richard M Johnson, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter: You have conferred upon me the greatest honor it is in your power to bestow. I appreciate it, and fully realize the responsibility of the position. I request your co-operation and support, and humbly pray to God (a belief in whom is the foundation of our beloved Fraternity) to guide me in the performance of my duty.

To my mind there is nothing more beautiful and instructive than the lessons taught in Freemasonry, from the E. A. to the R. A., and if given in a proper manner, cannot fail to make an impression upon those receiving them.

I have long felt that the membership of Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction should be largely increased; why this has not been done is as well known to those who have preceded me as to myself, and I propose to continue the good work that has been started, and will use my utmost endeavors to correct the lethargy which still exists in some of the Chapters. I know from experience that in Chapters where the degrees are conferred in a correct and impressive manner, it not only commands the attention of the candidates, but also of the members, and they attend the meetings regularly to listen to the correct rendition of the beautiful and impressive work of the Capitular Degrees. If every Chapter in the Jurisdiction can be induced to make a renewed effort to learn the correct work and confer the degrees in the manner which I have stated, it will create a generous rivalry among the Chapters and the desired result, a large increase in membership, will soon be attained.

For several years previous to my election as M. E. Grand Scribe, I was solicited by the officers and members of a number of Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction to visit and instruct them in the authorized work. I voluntarily and freely gave them all the service that I possibly could, and I think that I can truthfully say that every one of the Chapters thus visited is at the present time in a prosperous condition.

During the past four years, under the direction of my much honored and respected predecessors, I have assisted in the organization of Schools of Instruction in a number of districts, and they have been of great benefit to the Fraternity.

I want to impress upon the minds of the members of every Chapter, that it is their duty to select to fill the several offices in their Chapter only such Companions as are competent and willing to perform the duties required of them.

I also desire to impress upon the minds of the elective officers, that it is their duty to read and become familiar with the Constitution, Rules, Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Chapter, in order that they may conduct the business of their Chapters in accordance therewith.

I have created three new districts, and have made new appointments in several districts in which the present District Deputies have, in a very commendable spirit, said to me that they could not devote the time which they considered necessary to the performance of their duties.

It is an utter impossibility for the Grand High Priest, during his term of office, to visit every Chapter in the Jurisdiction. For that reason, District Deputies are appointed, and I shall expect them, during the present year, to be faithful in the performance of their duties; to visit the Chapters under their charge as

often as possible, dispense Masonic light and knowledge when necessary, and see that the Chapters are properly equipped, and conduct their business in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Chapter.

School of Instruction.

The Assembly Room on the first floor of this Temple, will be open for instruction in the Capitular Degrees on the first Thursday and fourth Wednesday evenings of every month, except July and August. All Royal Arch Masons are invited.

Companions, as we are about to commence another year of our Masonic life, let us renew our allegiance to the Almighty and to our Masonic Vows, and resolve to do everything in our power to make the present year one of prosperity to our ancient and honorable Fraternity.

The M. E. Grand High Priest announced the following appointments for the present Masonic Year, commencing this day:

District Deputy Grand High Priests.

The County of Philadelphia will be under the M. E. Grand High Priest, Comp. Richard M. Johnson.

1. Comp. John McKain, of Pittsburgh, for the Counties of Allegheny and Washington.

2. Comp. William C. Thompson, of Butler, for the Counties of Beaver and Butler.

3. Comp. Curtis G. Campbell, of Johnstown, for the Counties of Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Somerset and Cambria.

4. Comp. John B. Sprenkel, of York, for the Counties of Lancaster, Adams and York.

5. Comp. Stephen H. Appleton, of Media, for the County of Delaware.

6. Comp. John H. Shopp, of Harrisburg, for the Counties of Dauphin, Cumberland and Franklin.

7. Comp. T. Darlington Buckwalter, of Pottstown, for Chapters 190, 262 and 271, of Montgomery County, and 198, of Chester County.

8. Comp. Albert R. Hoover, of Reading, for the Counties of Berks and Lebanon.

9. Comp. Christian A. Seidel, of Pottsville, for the County of Schuylkill.

10. Comp. Daniel Z. Walker, of Allentown, for the Counties of Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Monroe.

11. Comp. George P. Lindsay, of Plymouth, for the Counties of Luzerne and Pike.

12. Comp. James H. Codding, of Towanda, for the Counties of Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga, and Chapter 172, at Tunkhannock.

13. Comp. Charles E. Cooper, of Oil City, for the Counties of Warren, Venango and Forest.

14. Comp. John M. Schram, of Ridgway, for the Counties of McKean, Potter, Cameron and Elk.

15. Comp. Daniel B. Else, of Williamsport, for the Counties of Lycoming, Clinton and Centre.

16. Comp. Frederick L. Brown, of Scranton, for the Counties of Lackawanna, Wayne and Wyoming, except Chapter 172, at Tunkhannock.

17. Comp. Martin L. Shaffner, of Huntingdon, for the Counties of Mifflin, Bedford, Huntingdon, Juniata, Fulton, Perry, Clearfield and Blair.

18. Comp. Peter Barkey, of Erie, for the Counties of Erie and Crawford.

19. Comp. John C. Wallace, of New Castle, for the Counties of Mercer and Lawrence.

20. Comp. John W. Farnsworth, of Danville, for the Counties of Montour and Columbia.

21. Comp. Cyrus H. Blood, of Brookville, for the Counties of Jefferson, Clarion and Armstrong.

22. Comp. Ellis H. Doan, of Coatesville, for the County of Chester, except Chapter 198, at Phœnixville.

23. Comp. Edward R. W. Searle, of Susquehanna, for the County of Susquehanna.

24. Comp. Thomas Rose, of Ambler, for Bucks County and Chapters 220 and 245 of Montgomery County.

25. Comp. Harry M. Chenoweth, of Sunbury, for the County of Northumberland.

Grand Chaplains.

Comp. Rev. HENRY S. GETZ, of Philadelphia.
" Rev. CHARLES M. STOCK, of Hanover,
" Rev. BENJAMIN F. DELO, of Clarion.
" Rev. WILLIAM B. CHALFANT, of Easton.
" Rev. WILL H. HILLER, of Wilkes-Barre.

Grand Captain of the Host.

Comp. EDWIN H. COANE, of Chapter No. 240.

Grand Principal Sojourner.

Comp. CARL A. SUNDSTROM, of Chapter No. 175.

Grand Royal Arch Captain.

Comp. FRANCIS H. HEMPERLEY, of Chapter No. 248.

Grand Master of Third Vail.

Comp. FRANK P. MASON, of Chapter No. 243.

Grand Master of Second Vail.

Comp. ADAM H. SCHMEHL, of Chapter No. 237.

Grand Master of First Vail.

Comp. BENJAMIN EISEMAN, of Chapter No. 183.

Grand Marshal.

Comp. GEORGE B. WELLS, of Chapter No. 52.

Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies.

Comp. JOHN O'DONNEL, of Chapter No. 91.

Junior Grand Master of Ceremonies.

Comp. FORREST E. GORDON, of Chapter No. 169.

Grand Pursuivant.

Comp. FRANK M. HIGHLEY, of Chapter No. 183.

Grand Tyler.

Comp. WILLIAM B. JOSLYN, of Chapter No. 175.

Committee on Jurisprudence.

M. E. Comp. GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., P. G. H. P.,
" " HIBBERT P. JOHN, P. G. H. P.,
" " GEORGE E. WAGNER, P. G. H. P.,
" " JAMES S. BARBER, P. G. H. P.

In conjunction with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

Committee on Appeals.

M. E. Comp. ALEXANDER H. MORGAN, P. G. H. P.,
" EDWARD PERRY,
" GEORGE CARNELL,
" ALEXANDER McCUNE,
" HARRY W. READ.

Committee on Finance.

M. E. Comp. EZRA S. BARTLETT, P. G. H. P.,
" M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
" JOHN SLINGLUFF,
" CHARLES S. VANDEGRIFT,
" JACOB W. JACKSON.

Committee on By-Laws.

M. E. Comp. EDGAR A. TENNIS, P. G. H. P.,
" CHARLES P. KEECH,
" PHILIP C. SHAFFER,
" JOSEPH M. WIATT,
" LOUIS M. WAGNER.

Committee on Correspondence.

M. E. Comp. MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, P. G. H. P.,
" J. SIMPSON AFRICA,
" STOCKTON BATES,
" JOSHUA L. LYTE,
" JAMES H. CODDING.

Committee on Charity.

Comp. CONRAD B. DAY,
" N. FERREE LIGHTNER,
" ROBERT L. HOLLIDAY,
" SAMUEL S. YOHE,
" SAMUEL W. LATTA.

Committee on Printing and Publishing.

Comp. JAMES BLELOCH,
" HARRY I. McINTYRE, Jr.,
" JOHN E. POORE,
" JOHN T. BEARDSLEY,
" MATTHIAS H. SEDDINGER.

The Grand Chapter was closed in Peace at seven o'clock and forty minutes, P. M.

CHARLES CARY,
Grand Secretary

George E. Wagner

M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
1876.

PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS

OF

The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

1795, William Ball.†
1796–1797, William Moore Smith.†
1798—1802. Jonathan Bayard Smith.†
1802—1805, Israel Israel.†
1806—1813. James Milnor †
1814, Richard Tybout †
1815 Samuel F. Bradford †
1816—1817, Walter Kerr †
1818—1821, Bayse Newcomb †
1822—1823, Josiah Randall †
1824—1825 Michael Nisbet.†
1826, John Steele, Jr †
1827, Tristram B. Freeman †
1828, Joseph S. Riley.†
1829—1831, John M. Read.†
1832—1833, Samuel H. Perkins.†
1834, Enos S. Gandy.†
1835, John Y. Black.†
1836—1840, Joseph R. Chandler.†
1841—1842, Alexander Diamond.†
1843—1844, William Whitney.†
1845—1846, William Barger.†

1847, John McGrath †
1848, John J. Krider †
1849, James Simpson.†
1850—1851, David C. Skerrett, M. D.†
1852—1853, Edward P. Lescure.†
1854, Anthony Bournonville, M. D.†
1855—1856, Harman Baugh.†
1857, John C. Smith.†
1858—1859, Daniel Thompson.†
1860, Benjamin Parke.†
1861, Harman Yerkes.†
1862—1863, Jeremiah L. Hutchinson.†
1864—1865, George W. Wood.†
1866—1867, Samuel C. Perkins.
1868—1869, George Griscom.†
1870—1871, Michael Nisbet.†
1872—1873, Charles E. Meyer.*
1874—1875, Andrew Robeno, Jr.†
1876, George E. Wagner.
1877—1878, Alfred R. Potter.†
1879—1880, William C. Hamilton, M. D.
1881—1882, Hibbert P. John.
1883—1884, Augustus R. Hall.†
1885—1886, George W. Kendrick, Jr.
1887—1888, Matthias H. Henderson.
1889—1890, James S. Barber.
1891—1892, Alexander H. Morgan.
1893—1894, Edgar A. Tennis.
1895—1896, Ezra S. Bartlett.
1897, Richard M. Johnson.

† Deceased.
* Expelled.

Our Dead.

"Life's labor done
Serenely to their final
rest they passed."

In Memoriam.

MICHAEL NISBET,

Past Grand High Priest.

BORN, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1829.

DIED, MAY 7th, 1896.

In Memoriam.

FRANCIS A. LYTE,

M. E. H. P. of Chapter No 279.

DIED, JUNE 24th, 1896.

HENRY B. BUCKWALTER,

King of Chapter No. 202.

DIED, OCTOBER 31st, 1896.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM F. TREWIN,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 3.

DIED, JANUARY 17th, 1896.

WILLIAM CLARK,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 52.

DIED, SEPTEMBER 10th, 1896.

JOHN SCHUYLER, Jr.,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 163.

DIED, JANUARY 31st, 1896.

ROBERT T. HOUSTON,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 169.

DIED, JANUARY 1st, 1896.

THEODORE CORNMAN,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 171.

DIED, MARCH 6th, 1896.

In Memoriam.

HENRY J. BROOKS,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 175.

DIED, FEBRUARY 16th, 1896.

DAVID A. WERTZ,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 176.

DIED, APRIL 13th, 1896.

GEORGE L. STONE,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 180.

DIED, MAY 14th, 1896.

SAMUEL B. PRICE,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 181.

DIED, AUGUST 7th, 1896.

JOHN STERLING,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 183.

DIED, APRIL 6th, 1896.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM McMILLAN,
P. H. P. Chapter No. 185.
DIED, JANUARY 8th, 1896.

FREDERICK BECKER, Jr ,
P. H. P. Chapter No. 185.
DIED, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1896.

ROBERT M. WALLACE,
P. H. P. Chapter No. 186.
DIED, JUNE 15th, 1896.

EDMUND A. KITE,
P. H. P. Chapter No. 190.
DIED, JANUARY 11th, 1896.

JOSEPH R. EBERT,
P. H. P. Chapter No. 190.
DIED, MAY 11th, 1896.

In Memoriam.

JOHN A. MARCHAND,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 192.

DIED, AUGUST 5th, 1896.

CLAYTON H. REIST,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 196.

DIED, SEPTEMBER 13th, 1896.

EDWARD H. TURNER,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 201.

DIED, JULY 12th, 1896.

FRANK GRAFF,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 202.

DIED, FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

WILLIAM H. GRIMM,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 206.

DIED, APRIL 29th, 1896.

ADAM HERSH,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 220.

DIED, JULY , 1896.

In Memoriam.

THOMAS MILLSPAUGH,

P H. P. Chapter No. 222.

DIED, JULY 31st, 1896.

GEORGE COOKE,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 223.

DIED, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1896.

CHARLES HALYBURTON,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 233.

DIED, MARCH 16th, 1896.

WILLIAM A. PIPER,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 233.

DIED, JULY 6th, 1896.

JOHN P. CLARK,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 238.

DIED, MAY 31st, 1896.

THOMAS E. GRIER,

P. H. P. Chapter No. 242.

DIED, JANUARY 8th, 1896.

Report on Correspondence.

With hearts profoundly thankful for past mercies and present blessings, we present our Annual Report on the Proceedings of such Grand Chapters as we have received; which have been reviewed by the members of our Committee in the order subjoined.

Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Canada Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia	Matthias H. Henderson, P. G. H. P.
England Florida Georgia Illinois Indiana Indian Territory Iowa Kansas Kentucky	Edgar A. Tennis, P. G. H. P.
Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska	J. Simpson Africa.

Nevada	Joshua L. Lyte.
New Brunswick	
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	
New York	
North Carolina	
North Dakota	
Nova Scotia	
Ohio	
Oregon	
South Carolina	John P. Clark.
Tennessee	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Quebec	James H. Codding.
Rhode Island	
Scotland	
South Dakota	
Texas	
Vermont	
Victoria	
Virginia	
Washington	

The plan of allotting certain Proceedings to certain members of the Committee was adopted December 27, 1892, and has been followed since. The Committee appointed at that time has remained intact, with two exceptions, until May 31, 1896, when the death of Companion John P. Clark occurred. It is the first time death has invaded our ranks. The writer has no knowledge upon which to base an account of his life, nor does he feel competent to present any estimate of the character of our deceased Companion. Living in sections of the State widely separated, having nothing in common except our interest in Freemasonry, and never meeting, save at the Communications of our Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, he had not that intimate acquaintance with him which would warrant him in giving a critical analysis of his qualities. Happily

there was one ready and able to pay that loving tribute to his memory. Past Grand High Priest Edgar A. Tennis, who was his friend and associate, presented an eulogium of him at the Communication of our Grand Chapter, held in September last, which can be found in its proper place in this volume. Speaking from our own limited knowledge, we bear willing testimony to the fact that we always found him a courteous and agreeable associate; never shrinking from any of his Masonic duties, and in their discharge endeavoring to deal justly with all. Of his ability as a Masonic writer we have had abundant proof. Having reviewed the Proceedings of South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wisconsin previous to his decease, we take satisfaction in presenting his last production in the service of the Grand Chapter.

To the place made vacant by the death of Companion Clark, our Grand High Priest has been pleased to appoint Companion James H. Codding, whom we take pleasure in introducing to our readers. In the zenith of his mental and physical powers, a Mason of wide experience, with a keenly logical mind, and an extensive knowledge of Masonic jurisprudence, we risk nothing in vouching for him. His work will speak for itself.

M. H. H.

ARIZONA.

The Sixth Annual Convention was held in Prescott, November 13, 1895; M. E. Comp. Francis Asbury Shaw, G. H. P., presiding.

His annual address, which is brief, opens with a tribute to the city of Prescott, which he describes as nestled in its pine-clad hills, surrounded by veins of the precious metals and mountain scenery of surpassing loveliness; the home of Aztlan Lodge, the pioneer of Masonry in the Territory. He congratulates his Grand Chapter upon the prosperity which as a people they enjoy. While floods, fires, and earthquakes have prevailed

elsewhere, they have escaped such calamities; no pestilence, epidemic, famine, or other misfortunes having visited them. The Angel of Death passed them by; no present or past grand officer having been summoned hence. The earth did not withhold her accustomed yield, the product of the copper mines during 1895 being worth $20,000,000, and of the gold and silver mines $5,000,000. Our Companions of Arizona have indeed much to be proud of and thankful for.

While appreciating their own blessings he is mindful of those less fortunate. He says there is a state of affairs in our country which should not exist in this so-called "Land of Liberty." That there are two millions of unemployed besides those who are underpaid, and ten millions in our great cities living between earth and sky in tenement houses, whose children have not a foot of ground on which to play. He says these are crying evils and the result of corruption in high places and should command our serious attention. His desire to ameliorate the condition of the suffering poor is commendable, but we would like him to produce the proof that their condition is the result of corruption in high places. He says:

"Picture to yourselves my Companions, the peace and prosperity, the joy and gladness that would immediately spread all over this world if universal justice was put into effect. If true merit, virtue, diligence and industry were recognized and the unrequited toil of the present compensated under 'that standard or bounty of right which renders unto every man his just due, without distinction.' How beautiful, then, would be the scenes of the happy homes and the happy faces of a brightened posterity, and the soul of self-conscious manhood again mantle the brow of the now dejected, destitute and over-burdened toilers."

When he gets down to business he states that a few days before he had received M. E. Ezra S. Bartlett's invitation to our centennial. He has been a constant attendant of his own Chapter, but has not visited any others, chiefly because "chill penury repressed the noble rage." He says:

"The distances are great, and traveling at six cents per mile is expensive. The sacrifice is too great for one of moderate means to make, unless the necessity is urgent. And, indeed, the Constitution and our Ritual are so well understood and thoroughly inculcated that, except for fraternal courtesy and the cultivation of the social amenities, a Grand Visitation would be unnecessary."

We infer that the Grand Chapter makes no appropriation for the expenses of the Grand High Priest.

He recommends an adherence to the California ritual, with which they are familiar, in preference to adopting that promulgated by the General Grand Chapter.

The Report of the Grand Secretary is more lengthy than the address of the Grand High Priest. He reports a total of four Chapters, with a total membership, October 1, 1895, of one hundred and seventy-nine, a loss of nine over the preceding year.

The Grand Treasurer reported that after paying all bills, a balance remained of $171.25.

A motion was adopted to hold future Annual Convocations at the same place that the Grand Lodge selects for its Annual Communication, and on the day following such Annual Communication, which we think wise.

There is no Report on Correspondence.

M. E. Rickmer N. Fredericks, Prescott, *Grand High Priest.*

R. E. George J. Roskruge, Tucson, *Grand Secretary.*

CALIFORNIA.

The Forty-Second Annual Convocation was held at San Francisco, April 21, 1896, M. E. Adolphus Hewel, Grand High Priest, presiding, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the volume.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form, with prayer and music.

The address of the Grand High Priest was the first business in order. It was nothing more than a plain statement of his official acts, coupled with tributes to the memory of two Companions;—Past Grand High Priest Ellison Lassell Crawford and Companion William Caldwell Belcher. The Grand High Priest examines all By-Laws of Chapters, or Amendments to By-Laws, and approves them before they are permitted to become operative. He decided that no lawful ballot could be had in a Chapter without a ballot-box properly furnished with the necessary means to permit the expression of either a favorable or an unfavorable vote—that is to say, with both white and black balls—and in an instance where an applicant had been approved by a box not so furnished, he decided the ballot to be unlawful, null and void. Justice, common sense, and every principle of Masonic law applauds this decision.

Cerneauism has intruded its baneful presence in California, and has been no more cordially welcomed there than it has elsewhere. General Regulation No. 21, after reciting what Masonic bodies are legitimate and genuine, goes on to say that any Royal Arch Mason who shall take or receive any so-called Masonic degree from any man or body of men not hereinbefore acknowledged to be legitimate and genuine, shall be liable to be expelled from all the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Mason. Notwithstanding this, one Powell S. Lawson permitted himself to be beguiled by cheap Masonry, and immediately got into trouble. Charges were preferred against him in his Chapter. He applied to the courts for an injunction restraining the Chapter from prosecuting the charges, which was granted. An injunction is the first recourse of a Masonic coward. It was subsequently removed, and the trial proceeded and he was found guilty and expelled. The action of the Chapter was commendable. The Cerneau bodies are illegitimate, unlawful, irregular and clandestine, and those who countenance them are aiding and

abetting counterfeiters, which is equivalent to being a counterfeiter, and excludes from all rights among genuine Freemasons. The fact that an injunction was obtained leads us into another train of thought. The Chapter must have been an incorporated body. We do not believe this to be in accordance with Masonic principles, or that it will further the best interests of Freemasonry. We believe it will have a contrary effect. We make this assertion modestly, without any desire to officiously intrude our opinions on others, and without asking them to adopt our views. We would, however, most respectfully call attention to the following: In 1804 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had under consideration a Communication from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, touching the expediency of applying for a charter of incorporation. The question was referred to a Committee, who made the following Report:

"That in the opinion of your Committee such a measure is neither expedient, proper, nor consistent with the nature and design of our institutions. The only ostensible reason for seeking this novel appendage is the more certain security of titles to real estate; but when it is considered how little danger or inconvenience attends the creation of trusts for this purpose, in the hands of solid and respectable members of the Fraternity, and their occasional renewal on the demise of any considerable number of such Trustees, your Committee cannot consider this object of any pressing necessity, and any benefits to be derived from it, they apprehend, would be counterbalanced by evils and dangers of an incalculable extent. They trust, indeed, that they will not be considered as betraying a warmth of feeling beyond what the occasion calls for, when they declare their settled conviction that Charters of Incorporation ingrafted on Masonic establishments are by far the most serious and alarming innovations that have ever threatened their secrecy, harmony, good order and perpetuity. Has it been considered, your Committee would ask, that by the acceptance of a Charter the Masonic institution becomes the creature of the Civil Government, that its freedom of action and independence are destroyed, that its conduct becomes subjected to external control and restraint, and that instead of being accountable only to the Great Architect, it becomes a responsible member of the political body? The usual incidents of incorporated institutions will, of course, be annexed to these; and one of the most prominent is their being subject to judicial process, not only in the capacity of suing

and being sued for pecuniary demands, but on the complaints of individuals, who may be induced to resort to the Legal Tribunals of the Country, for the redress of such real or imaginary wrongs, as ought only to be redressed or considered in the bosom of the Lodge. Thus may our most secret transactions be exposed to the observation, criticism and sneers of the uninitiated, whenever a disappointed candidate for office, or an unworthy expelled Brother shall choose to resort to a Court for the satisfaction of an alleged or pretended injury. On such application the grounds of our decisions will be examined, and after an unwarrantable and ruinous exposure of proceedings, which the nature of our Society requires to be sacred and confidential, we may be subjected to the painful necessity of seeing our ancient and inviolable Landmarks disregarded and set at nought by men who, however otherwise wise and learned, have not a view of the whole ground, and are in consequence ignorant of their utility and insensible of the beautiful consistent aspect they present to the Masonic observer. Your Committee will not more particularly advert to other inconveniences of a similar nature, nor to still more alarming evils, which, in the course of human events, and the urgency of political circumstances, might possibly, in their opinion, ensue the adoption of this measure, nor do they mean to dwell on the impolicy of encouraging a spirit of insubordination, by suffering dissatisfied individuals to hope for any extraneous aid against the occasional censures, or other acts of the bodies to which they belong. They will only add that the Grand Lodge of England once agreed to apply for a Charter of Incorporation, and a bill was introduced into Parliament for that purpose; but no sooner was its pernicious tendency discovered than the united remonstrances of the Brethren induced the then Deputy Grand Master, who was a member of the House of Commons, to move for its postponement *sine die*. The motion was agreed to, and the measure has not been revived. Such a measure was also once brought forward in your Right Worshipful Body. It was referred to a Committee, where it has rested for several years, and it is hoped will never again be heard of.

"Your Committee being of opinion that the order and symmetry, the peace, welfare and durability of our ancient and honorable Society are founded on its total independence of civil or political establishments, and that its ability to perpetuate its existence without any other aid than the conscientious labors of the Brethren, and the favor of the Divine Architect is not diminished, recommend that a Fraternal Communication be made to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, thanking them for their confidence and respect in submitting this question to your consideration, and should you concur in the sentiments contained in this report, that the same be transmitted therewith to the said R. W. Grand Lodge."

(Signed), JAMES MILNOR,
PETER LEBARBIER DUPLESSIS.

St. John's Day, 25th June, 1804.

"On consideration the said report was unanimously adopted, and the Grand Secretary directed to communicate the same to the R. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia."

We beg pardon for the length of this Report, but it is all so directly to the point that we found we could not abridge it without destroying much of its force. It has been the rule of action in Pennsylvania ever since its adoption. None of our bodies are incorporated, nor have we ever found the need of it. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania holds real estate worth one million and a half of dollars, the title to which is vested in Trustees appointed by the Grand Master. It has also at different times bought and sold real estate, and has had no trouble in either holding or conveying a good title. We believe others can do the same, and that they can enjoy all the benefits and immunities which unincorporation confers, and escape all the embarrassments which incorporation entails. We commend the foregoing to our respected Companions of California or those of any other locality where charters of incorporation are fashionable. It is worthy of mention that the above case cost the Grand Chapter in attorney fees and other expenses $693.05. It would be interesting to hear what argument can be advanced in favor of incorporating Masonic bodies.

The Grand High Priest acknowledges the receipt of an invitation to our Centennial Anniversary. Circumstances prevented his attendance.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence is by Companion Wm. A. Davies and is quite extended, comprising forty-five Grand Chapters. Our Proceedings for 1894 are reviewed with little comment. We presume everything contained therein meets with his approval.

Of our work he says:

"The Report on Correspondence is a very able one, worthy of the distinguished Committee whose names are a guarantee of its Masonic importance. For some unknown reason the Proceedings of California failed

to reach the Committee, and as the matter treated therein is in these days of rapid communication somewhat ancient, we forego the pleasure of comment thereon."

We regret that Companion Davies has denied himself the pleasure. From the time we were brought to Masonic light we have ever been imbued with the idea that the doctrines of Freemasonry which we endeavor to expound in our Reports lose nothing by age. Pennsylvania Masonry having nothing to do with the courts, or any code of civil law, the statute of limitations does not run against us, and lapse of time does not deprive us of the approval of our friends, or shield us from their just criticism.

THOMAS FLINT, *Grand High Priest.*
THOMAS HUBBARD CASWELL,
San Francisco. *Grand Secretary.*

COLORADO.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convocation was held in Denver, Thursday, September 17, 1896, M. E. George T. Cooper, Grand High Priest, presiding, and every Grand Officer present and in his station. Thirty Chapters of the thirty-two composing the constituency of the Grand Chapter were represented, which is commendable and worthy of note.

The Grand High Priest states in his address that no serious contention has interrupted the harmony which should exist. He notes the deaths in his own and other jurisdictions; among the latter being that of our Past Grand High Priest, Companion Michael Nisbet.

The Grand Treasurer's Report shows a cash balance on hand of two thousand five hundred and twenty dollars and eighty-two cents.

The Committee on Finance made a Report stating that they found all accounts correct, and closing as follows:

"We recommend that the names of the members of the various Subordinate Chapters following the list of officers be omitted in the report of this Grand Convocation; that the Report of the Committee on Correspondence be condensed this year as much as practicable, and be hereafter limited to fifty pages; that the publishing of the Constitution, By-Laws, and all decisions be omitted, except where changes have been made at this Convocation, and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to condense the report of these Proceedings as much as practicable."

Which was adopted, and we suppose future Reports from Colorado will exhibit its effects in their brevity. We presume this to be a measure of economy, and as every Grand Chapter has the ordering of its own household, we have neither the right or the disposition to criticise. We can, though, express our regret that such retrenchment has been found necessary. We think the Committee on Correspondence thus muzzled will find it difficult to present a Report which will compare in interest with their former ones. When between forty and fifty Grand Chapters are to be reviewed in fifty pages there is bound to be a short shrift for most of them.

The annual election of Grand Officers was held, and we notice the election of Companion Marshall H. Dean, of Glenwood Springs, as Grand Scribe. It carries us back to May 24, 1881, when an applicant of that name received the Entered Apprentice Degree in Lodge of the Craft, No. 433, F. and A. M., at New Castle, Pa., of which Lodge the writer is the oldest living Past Master. He was passed and raised in due time, and afterwards was made a Royal Arch Mason in Delta Chapter, No. 170, the same in which the writer received the degrees. He withdrew from these bodies and went West, and we have little doubt that the Companion whom our Companions of Colorado have honored is our acquaintance of former years. It is pleasant to meet old friends in prosperity, and we congratulate our Companion on his advancement, which we do not doubt is a well-earned reward for his labors in the Masonic field.

The Report on Correspondence occupies one hundred and six pages of the one hundred and sixty which compose the volume, and is written, as it has been for several years, by Past Grand High Priest Ernest Le Neve Foster. He gives Pennsylvania three pages, which is more than the average space devoted to the forty-four Grand Chapters he reviews. Having been directed this year to abbreviate his Report, he says he can make but few selections. He nevertheless gives us a fraternal and kindly expressed review, agreeing with us in many of the positions we take.

Under Kansas he says:

"He made one decision, which was approved by the Jurisprudence Committee, that a Chapter rejecting material cannot waive jurisdiction in favor of some other Chapter, so long as the rejected material resides in the jurisdiction where rejected.

"To our mind, the object of this decision is not clear, and we can see no good reason for it. If the Chapter can accept that which it once rejected, —and we never heard of any law which prevents such being done,—why should it not also have the right to waive its jurisdiction and let some other Chapter take the material?"

In Pennsylvania the refusal of a Chapter to accept an applicant, and its refusal to permit another Chapter to confer the degrees on material which should properly come to it, has the same effect in one respect: it is a rejection in either case. This may seem to be a hardship, but it is good Masonic law, and takes the conceit out of Chapters who are willing to accept an applicant themselves, but are unwilling to allow him to go elsewhere. Some of them express great surprise when informed, after refusing to grant a waiver, that they can only receive the petition under the rules governing a rejected applicant. We have established rules governing rejections. One is that the applicant cannot receive the degrees until the objection against him is removed where it originated, which is done by ballot after due notice to members.

A Pennsylvania Chapter rejecting an applicant cannot allow another Chapter to confer the degrees, for the reasons that they

cannot consent to others making a Royal Arch Mason out of material which they did not consider good enough for themselves. In other words, we say to our Chapters: If Bro. A. B. is not good enough for you, he is not good enough for them, and though you do not want him, you cannot consent to another taking him. We hope the above may assist Companion Foster in dispelling the clouds which he says obscure his understanding of the question.

Under West Virginia he says:

"The Committee on By-Laws, in examining the By-Laws of one Chapter, advised the striking out of a By-Law disfranchising all members delinquent at the time of election. Such summary action is quite un-Masonic; whether it be a serious charge or a light one, every Mason is entitled to a hearing before being declared guilty of a Masonic offence, and unless an offence has been committed, there is no right to deprive a member of his vote. The Committee did the right thing when they struck it out."

Chapters of Royal Arch Masons are like every other humane organization, whether ecclesiastical or secular, in one respect, viz.: they can not be organized or maintained without money. We may call it filthy lucre, spurn it, despise and contemn it, but we cannot do without it. In Pennsylvania the payment of dues is a Masonic obligation, their non-payment is a Masonic offence, for which the delinquent can be disqualified from exercising the right of suffrage. We do not think such a regulation un-Masonic.

The volume closes with a list of decisions compiled from various Jurisdictions, returns of Chapters, and a number of statistical tables.

James H. Peabody, Canon City, *Grand High Priest.*
Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, *Grand Secretary.*

CONNECTICUT.

The Ninety-Eighth Annual Convocation was held in Hartford, May 12, 1896, M. E. James R. Post, Grand High Priest, presiding. There was a full attendance of Grand and Past Grand Officers, and Representatives of Constituent Chapters.

The address of the Grand High Priest can be best described as brief and domestic. He granted dispensations to three Chapters to ballot on applicants without waiting the Constitutional time, and to another to take part in the Masonic parade of all the Masonic bodies of New London, with invited guests, to act as an escort to the M. W. Grand Master of Connecticut, May 6th, in laying the corner-stone of the John Winthrop monument, in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of New London by John Winthrop in 1646. We did not know that Chapters ever appeared in public as such, and our Companions of Connecticut will pardon us if we express the opinion that we do not think it proper that they should do so.

The Deputy Grand High Priest and Grand Scribe submitted Reports of Visitations made.

The Grand Secretary reported that all the Chapters had made their returns and paid their dues, which is as commendable as it is unusual.

The Grand High Priest and several Officers of the Grand Chapter of New York paid the Grand Chapter a fraternal visit, and were received with the grand honors.

The Committee on Grievances reported that "universal peace and harmony prevail among the Craft."

The Grand Chapter voted to celebrate its centennial in 1898, and appointed a Committee of Arrangements for the celebration. This Committee was empowered to add to their number, subject to the approval of the M. E. Grand High Priest.

The Report on Correspondence is again by the veteran P. G. H. P. John H. Barlow. Companion Barlow is an able and conscientious reviewer, and we are pleased to note that there is more pen and less scissors about this Report than there has been about some of his former ones. We agree with a great deal that he says. With some things we do not agree. Our Proceedings for 1894 are reviewed. He quotes the action of Grand High Priest Tennis in declaring null and void the action of Chapter No. 185 in exalting an applicant who lived within the jurisdiction of Chapter No. 274, without asking that Chapter if it had any Masonic objection to the applicant, and says:

"If we understand the decision correctly, the penalty is inflicted only on the candidate, who was probably an innocent party, not supposed to be informed on the question of jurisdiction. He has paid his money and received no recognition, while the offending Chapter does not receive even a reprimand. We do not find that any action was taken by the Grand Chapter upon this decision, which seems to us very unjust."

We agree with Companion Barlow that it is very unjust. The innocent suffer and the guilty escape. Nevertheless Grand High Priest Tennis could not have done anything else. Our Constitution in Section 112 says:

"When an application is received by a Chapter other than that which is nearest to the place of residence of the applicant, except in cities or towns where there may be two or more Chapters, the Chapter receiving such petition, before balloting thereon, shall, under its seal, inquire of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of the applicant (if there shall be more than one, then one of them) whether there is any Masonic objection to the Chapter to which the petition is presented acting on such petition."

The officers of Chapter No. 185 did not comply with this regulation. Their violation of the law was as plain as the sun at noonday. The Grand High Priest had no choice in the matter. He was bound by his obligation to support the law and set aside the action of the Chapter. What was done

unlawfully was not done at all, therefore the candidate is not a Royal Arch Mason; for what he has obtained in an irregular manner he has no right to enjoy. He is innocent himself, but suffers from being in bad company. We hope to see a reform in this matter. We think that with the edict disfranchising the candidate should go another removing from office the High Priest or Secretary, or both, of the offending Chapter.

He says: "We do not find that any action was taken by the Grand Chapter on this decision." There was no necessity for the Grand Chapter to take any action. The action of the Grand High Priest was so clearly right, and in accordance with the established law, that it did not need anybody's confirmation.

Just here we will make some statements that doubtless will cause Companion Barlow surprise. The Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania is a very different officer from the Grand High Priest of many jurisdictions, and possesses prerogatives which they never in their wildest fancies ever dreamed of. In many jurisdictions he merely presides over the Grand Chapter, receives reports, puts motions, etc. An appeal can be taken at any time from his rulings, and if he makes a decision it is of no force or effect until his Grand Chapter has confirmed it. The Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania is an autocrat in everything pertaining to Royal Arch Masonry within his jurisdiction. No appeal can be taken from his decisions, and they become a part of the written law, though any of his successors can reverse them. He is under no obligation to report his decisions to the Grand Chapter, though he does so, not for its approval, but for its information, and that they may assist in the settlement of future cases. Companion Barlow will naturally ask, Is not this grant of unlimited power dangerous, and does not the Grand High Priest become so arbitrary and disagreeable that there is no living with him? The writer has been a member of the Grand Chapter for twenty-three years, and no Grand High Priest has

abused his power during that time. Our Grand High Priests do not make their decisions hastily. If in doubt they consult the old heads, weighing carefully every reason and argument and adopting such as they think proper. But when the fiat is promulgated it is theirs, and they assume its responsibility. That they are generally right is proved by the fact that they are so seldom reversed.

Companion Barlow will read our Proceedings in vain to discover where an address of any of our Grand High Priests was referred to a Committee, or where the Grand Chapter qualified any of their decisions.

M. E. Samuel S. Lamb, Waterbury, *Grand High Priest.*
R. E. James McCormick, Hartford, *Grand Secretary.*

DELAWARE.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Convocation was held in Wilmington, January 15, 1896, M. E. Companion Eugene Massey, Grand High Priest, presiding. There was a large representation present from the four Chapters which comprise the constituency of the Grand Chapter.

The address of the Grand High Priest is brief and refers entirely to domestic matters. He recommended that a regulation be adopted making membership in a Chapter coexistent with membership in a Blue Lodge, that a Companion who dimits from a Blue Lodge, and who does not affiliate for one year, forfeits his membership in the Chapter of which he was a member. The address was referred to a Committee, as is customary in some Jurisdictions, and it advised that the above recommendation be approved, which was done, and it is now the law in Delaware. We are glad to note this, as it is undoubtedly right and in accordance with sound Masonic law. The only criticism we would make upon it is that it gives the unaffiliate too much time; six months, we think,

would be better than a year. He decided that a summons is effective within the jurisdictional limits of the Chapter issuing it. This decision was also approved.

Companion Virginius V. Harrison having been elected M. E. Grand High Priest, was on motion unanimously requested by the Grand Chapter to continue in his present capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which he decided to do. Right Reverend Companion Leighton Coleman, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Delaware, and a member of a Pennsylvania Chapter, then presented the retiring M. E. G. H. P. Eugene Massey with a handsome Past Grand High Priest's jewel, which he received with well-timed remarks.

The Report on Correspondence is by M. E. Companion V. V. Harrrison, who reviews forty-four Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1894 among them. He thinks that at some time in the dim uncertain future we will relent and take "the fledgeling," as he calls the Supreme Grand Chapter of New South Wales, to our bosom, overlooking its sins and omissions. We are not aware of having ever charged it with sins or omissions, but we can assure Companion Harrison there is no uncertainty in the future about our attitude towards this Grand Chapter as it is at present organized. What a majority of American and foreign Grand Chapters have done does not influence us. When we have long established principles of Masonic law on our side we will adhere to them if we have not another friend or supporter.

The eulogy of P. G. H. P. George W. Kendrick, Jr. upon P. G H. P. Jeremiah L. Hutchinson, is described as most eloquent and touching.

He quotes G. H. P. Tennis' ruling that an officer cannot resign, and also quotes from the Circular Letter to Chapters that "all resignations must be reported promptly to the Grand Secretary," and says he is unable to reconcile these two. We will endeavor to assist him. It is an unwritten law in Penn-

sylvania that an elected officer cannot resign his office, because at his installation he obligates himself to serve during the Masonic year for which he was elected, which, if it means anything, means to the end of the year. While Grand High Priest Tennis did not so express himself, he meant that an elected officer cannot resign his office, and the Circular Letter meant that all resignations of members must be reported promptly to the Grand Secretary.

He refers to our review of their Proceedings for 1894, and says we did them full justice. He acknowledges his error in saying that our Jurisdiction is divided into eight Districts instead of twenty-two, but fails to state where he found his apparent authority for saying eight, which is what bothered us, and we are still unsatisfied. As we presume our Proceedings for 1892 have long since been mislaid, and Companion Harrison will not be able to refer to them to verify his statement, we must accept the *amende honorable* and let it go.

He is a firm believer in dependent membership, and in the importance of official visitations. He also makes a statement which shows that the light is breaking in Delaware. He believes that the Chapter has no proper jurisdiction over the Past Master's degree, and he thinks Grand Representatives are useless. He is also opposed to waiving the statutory time in which Committees of Inquiry should report; which he terms "railroading" the candidates. He is "unalterably against public installations." In all of the above we think he exhibits sound judgment, good sense, and an intelligent conception of correct Masonic law and practice.

M. E. Virginius V. Harrison, *Grand High Priest.*
R. E. James H. Price, *Grand Secretary.*

Wilmington.

ENGLAND, 1896.

The Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England held their usual Quarterly Convocations at Free Masons' Hall, London, and among the features at the August Convocation we observe that Excellent Companion R. Grey, who for the past ten years has creditably held the position of President of the Committee on General Purposes, declined a reappointment, which decision was the occasion of much regret on the part of his fellow Companions, and many kind things were said as to the high esteem and fraternal regard in which he has been held; and a more substantial evidence of this friendship was given by the presentation to Companion Grey of a handsome jewel, upon which was inscribed: "Presented to E. Comp. Robert Grey, P. Asst. G. Soj., also P. President of the Committee of General Purposes of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England, on his retirement from the office of President, in recognition of the able and courteous manner in which he presided over that Committee for a period of ten years."

It has been the custom of this Grand Body to exclude from the opening of Royal Arch Chapters all Companions except Installed Principals, and at the Quarterly Communication, held August 5, 1896, a motion was made by Excellent Companion Henry Garrod, P. Asst. G. B. of C., that this practice be discontinued, claiming that there was no rule or law in Royal Arch Masonry which precluded Companions from being present at the opening of a Chapter, and that there was no particular secret divulged during the period; therefore the present custom should be abolished, and in his judgment Royal Arch Masonry would thus become more popular. He supported his opinion also from extracts from the Proceedings of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham. His motion was seconded by Excellent Companion John Speight Cumberland, P. Asst. G. Dir. of Cers., who said that he had often wondered why all of the Companions could not be present when the

Chapter was opened. The motion was opposed by Companion Thomas Fenn, P. President of the Committee of General Purposes, saying that it had been a part of the ceremony of Royal Arch Masonry for more than one hundred years, and under the revision of their ceremony by the Duke of Sussex in 1834 this ceremony was especially insisted upon. The motion was also opposed by Excellent Companion C. Hill Drury, P. Grand S. B., saying among other things, "The spirit of curiosity and emulation were very strong factors in the promotion of interest in anything, and the fact that some Companions had privileges which others had not, induced in them a like desire of emulation and made them desirous of passing through the Chairs in order to obtain the whole knowledge of the degree. After further consideration the motion was negatived by a large majority. The above ceremony differs from the custom in our Jurisdiction, and we are inclined to believe that the opening and closing of a Chapter should be a ceremony at which all Companions of Royal Arch Masons should be present. As an evidence of the charitable feeling of this Grand Body, a motion was unanimously carried that the sum of one hundred guineas be contributed from the funds of the Grand Chapter to aid and assist Guy's Hospital in being freed from its financial distress.

The following addition to the Royal Arch Regulations was unanimously agreed to, it being desired to meet the case of his Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, who is Grand Superintendent of Bombay:

"A District Grand Superintendent, if a Prince of the Blood Royal, may appoint a Pro-District Grand Superintendent, possessed of the same qualifications, to rank immediately before the District Grand H., and who shall be regularly installed, and shall be entitled when in office to all the privileges of a Grand Superintendent, and on retirement, to the Rank of Past District Grand Superintendent."

The several Communications closed in ancient and solemn form, and the business was largely of local character.

FLORIDA, 1896.

The Fiftieth Convocation of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of the State of Florida, was opened in the Masonic Temple, in the city of Jacksonville, at 10 o'clock A. M., on Tuesday, May 12th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

The Grand High Priest, Companion John H. Stevens, delivered his annual address, which is a business-like document and refers to local matters largely, concluding in these words:

"No decisions have been required on the part of the Grand High Priest as every question has been answered by citation to proper regulation. And now, Companions, this closes my official work and I have only to request that over my errors and omissions you will spread the broad mantle of charity and continue ever to give me the warm pressure of the fraternal hand."

This Convocation was the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Companions among the Palmettos and the Pines, and the Grand Chapter listened to an interesting and eloquent address from their Deputy Grand High Priest, Companion William H. Jewell. We have read this address throughout, and are prepared to call it a "jewel" in every sense of the word. But aside from being eloquent it is historical, and contains much information of value. Because of the many bright and valued lines, we will forgive him for the following extravagant reference:

"Companions, our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. In this glorious land of sunshine, flowers and fruits, where the soft susurrus of the pines chants love songs to the orange and the magnolia, where the tenebrous shades of night are shot through and through with the splendid effulgence of a Southern moon, where the mocking bird pours out its soul-ecstacy of song, and where a balmy and caressing air woos the invalid and aged to our genial clime. In this favored land our lot is cast; here it is, dear Companions, our work is to be done."

This Grand Chapter, although not large, is in a prosperous condition, and generally alive to the best interests of Capitular

Work. We double you in years and possibly in Masonic experience, but we doubt not that your enthusiasm is equal to ours in every respect, and we extend felicitations and kind wishes as you embark upon the second half-century of your existence. There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence. Companion M. E. William H. Jewell is the present Grand High Priest, and Companion Wm. A. McLean was re-elected Grand Secretary.

GEORGIA, 1896.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the State of Georgia, met in the Seventy-fourth Annual Convocation, in the Masonic Temple, in the city of Macon, at 10 o'clock A. M., Wednesday, April 29th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

The Grand Chapter became the guests of Good Samaritan Council, and partook of refreshments prepared by the hands of the fair Sisters composing this branch of the Masonic Fraternity as recognized by the Grand Chapter of Georgia. We have yet to have that same courtesy extended by the fair, frail creatures of our Jurisdiction, but perhaps the spirit of appreciation is not so prominently developed in the cold region of the North.

The Grand High Priest's, Companion Charles Wessolowsky's address, is one of considerable length, and is historical in its character, as well as local in the treatment of his administration, and indicates an exceptionally active year and close application to duty. Speaking of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Harmony and good fellowship prevail in nearly all the Chapters throughout the State. Good and true work has also been done. The returns of Chapters exhibit vitality and life. The gross gain of Royal Arch Masons in the jurisdiction has been for the year, 233; Marked and on the way to Exaltation, 204; and the total number of membership on our rolls, as far as returns have come in and been tabulated, show a net gain of about 600. This, indeed, is an encouragement for our work, and we hope that in the near future much more will be done."

Referring to the Masonic Home and the Committee appointed to confer with the Grand Lodge in regard to establishing the same, he did not deem it necessary to call the Committee together, inasmuch as the Grand Lodge were taking no definite steps in the premises. He earnestly recommends that the Companions of the Jurisdiction give this matter their earnest consideration, and I have no doubt that within a few years this mark of charity will be established. He recommends that a Committee on New Constitution be appointed, the present one being faulty and silent as to many questions now before their Chapters needing solution. He devotes considerable space, and speaks pleasantly and sensibly as to how the respective Chapters are to be built up, and urges the High Priests to rally with all enthusiasm and be true to their trust. He concludes his address in the following words:

"These, Companions, are the stones which, as Grand High Priest, I wrought in the quarries of the past year. I now bring them to you for your inspection. Test them with the square of leniency, inspect them with an eye of forbearance and brotherly love, and while I have marked them with my Mark, and believe them to be good, true and square, as far as my understanding and ability will permit, yet I know that human skill is not perfect, and that you may find some defect, and some stones, perhaps, not authorized to be received for the building of the Temple. If so, I beg you to remember that 'To err is human, to forgive, divine.'

"Again, Companions, for the honor and confidence given me, I thank you heartily."

The Committee, to whom was referred the Grand High Priest's address, speaks thus approvingly of the same:

"With unfeigned pleasure we commend the energy and zeal of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, who, by his earnest efforts, untiring labors and marked ability, has crowned the year's work, with the eloquent, elevating and soul-stirring address to which we have listened with delight. By his indefatigable zeal and ability he has endeared himself more closely to the Royal Craft, and inspired within us an ardent desire to promote the growth of Capitular Masonry in our jurisdiction, as well as more earnest purpose to adorn the profession of our calling as Masons, by exemplifying its tenets in our lives and characters."

We do not, of course, see any use in referring the address of the Grand High Priest to Committees and the custom does not prevail in our jurisdiction, but so long as their reports are in harmony with the opinions and decisions of the appointing power they can, at least, do no harm. We observe, however, that the Committee on Jurisprudence take some exception to the decisions of the Grand High Priest, and it would seem that they have been more in love with his ability to write well than his ability to decide questions of Masonic law—for instance, as to the question (Can a Companion not being affiliated with his symbolic Lodge hold an office in the Chapter,) the Grand High Priest answers emphatically "No:" and says "It would be a wise law that an unaffiliated Mason in the Blue Lodge stands unaffiliated in all other branches." The Committee in lieu of this decision suggests that a Companion remaining unaffiliated with his Lodge for as much as twelve months should not be entitled to membership or any office in any Chapter or in the Grand Chapter. We would endorse the suggestion of the Committee. The law in our Jurisdiction makes the limit of non-affiliation six months. The Grand High Priest decided that a dimit could be granted to a Companion in a Lodge, to which the Committee on Jurisprudence takes exception, and says "We disagree with the answer and report that a Companion can be dimitted only by the Chapter in the Royal Arch Degree to which he belongs, under the same regulations as now obtained in the Blue Lodge for the dimitting of a Master Mason;" which is, in our opinion, good reasoning. It seems to us that the following resolution just passed by the Grand Chapter is about seventy-four years late being introduced, since clearly the Grand High Priest from the the time of his installation as such has power to do all that this resolution now seeks to give him: "Resolved that while the Grand Chapter is not in session, the Grand High Priest has full power to interpret, construe and enforce the laws of Capitular Masonry."

The Committee on Charters recommended the granting of the petition for three new Chapters. The following amendment was also favorably reported and adopted: "Article one, Section six, of the Grand Constitution be amended by striking out ten cents per mile and inserting five cents per mile. The adoption of this resolution will reduce the expense of holding the Annual Communication at least one half," which, in our judgment, is a wise curtailment, in view of the fact that the Committee on Finance recommends that the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary be authorized to borrow such money as is necessary for the payment of expenses for the present year; thus indicating that the Grand Body has not been self-sustaining under the present regulations. The Committee on Finance and Returns compliments the Grand High Priest in the following words, and I have no doubt that the compliment is in every wise deserved:

"In closing our labors we wish to compliment and most heartily thank our Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the able and magnificent address to this Grand Chapter, as well as for the great work he has done during the past twelve months. His labors, we know, have been arduous and continuous, but he has proven most faithful to the trust placed in his hands. We hope for a gradual and sure increase in the improvement of Capitular Masonry in the Subordinate Chapters upon a solid and firm foundation, under his most excellent leadership."

During the year, fifty Companions, members of the Grand Chapter, crossed the river of death, and in the Proceedings a page is indicated sacred to their memory, as is also a page sacred to the memory of the dead of Sister Jurisdictions.

Companion W. F. Ramsay, Chairman on Foreign Correspondence, reviews the Proceedings of thirty-eight Grand Chapters, in which we share no part. In his conclusion he compliments noted reviewers of by-gone years, and also pays a just tribute to a number now living, and we give you the benefit of his sentiments as printed:

"Among the reportorial corps are some of the best trained minds on this continent, and in whose Annual Reports we enjoy the rich experience, the ripened knowledge, and the sound counsels of such minds as Horner, of Louisiana, Ogden, of New York, Harper and Vaux, of Pennsylvania, Vehslage, of New Jersey, Brown, of Kansas, and Innis, of Michigan; with a score of others who have gone to their reward and left us the fruits of their labors —but the living, Drummond of Maine, Robertson, of Canada, Pellans, of Alabama, Schultz, of Maryland, Mayo, of Missouri, Singleton, of the District of Columbia, Long, of Indiana, and Swain, of Wisconsin. These live to-day with many others, willing to bear the heat and burden of the day, giving you the benefit of their best labors in preparing these Reports amounting to thousands of pages. These account as nothing else can for the prosperity and health of Masonry in all this land of ours. We can never estimate the value of such work, until time shall disclose what Masonry has accomplished in enforcing and perpetuating the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God."

ILLINOIS, 1896.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois, convened in the Masonic Temple, city of Chicago, on Thursday, the 29th day of October, A. D., 1896, A. I. 2426, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The M E. Grand High Priest, George M. Moulton, delivered a lengthy and interesting address, the opening sentences of which are as follows:

"A cordial and fraternal greeting to one and all. It is my esteemed privilege and great pleasure to welcome the representatives of 186 Chapters to this, the 47th Annual Convocation of the governing body of Royal Arch Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, which bears upon its rolls to-day the names of nearly 17,000 craftsmen who have penetrated the mysteries of the Holy Royal Arch.

"Bound together in a fraternal chain of union, about one common altar, we have rendered the thanks of grateful hearts to the great *I Am* for the gracious privilege of this meeting, and implored His blessing upon our deliberations and upon all our undertakings. With the record of the past before us, we are to act in the present for our future guidance and welfare. That all your functions and deliberative acts will be fraught with wisdom, prudence combined with zeal, and, more than all else, in consonance with the underlying and undying grand principles of Masonry, I have no room

for doubt. A conscious pride in the stainless record of years gone by, gives glorious promise of years to come."

During the year no new Chapters were constituted, but the membership increased 285 over last year. "Peace and happiness abide within the vails. No discordant element obtrudes itself to mar the fraternal good and happiness of the craft." Under decisions we note the following which is not the custom in our Jurisdiction, where, from the pedestal of the High Priest, the charter of the Chapter must always hang suspended while at work, and there are many good reasons to support our custom.

"It is lawful to open and transact the business of a Chapter in the absence of the written charter. The legality of a Chapter and its acts depends on the granting and continuance of its charter by Grand Chapter, and not upon the existence or presence of the written evidence thereof."

Illinois prides herself, and rightly so, in her Masonic Orphans' Home, while the Grand Chapter gives liberally to its support, $1,000 having been appropriated at their last Communication. The Home is located in Chicago, and the Grand High Priest has this to say:

"It is neither sectional nor sectarian in its operation Its field of good is co-extensive with the boundaries of the State, and the orphan from Cairo is just as welcome to the fostering care of the Home as the dependent waif of Masonic parentage from Chicago. It is earnestly desired that every representative here present avail himself of the opportunity while in Chicago of making a practical inspection of the Home. A visit is well worth the time spent. Wonder and admiration are universally expressed by all visitors at the work being done, and the cheerful, homelike, comfortable Home which the generosity of the Masonic Fraternity has made possible."

The Companions of Illinois seem to have appreciated the administration of Companion Moulton, and the Report of the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers has this to say of him:

"Your Committee congratulate the M E. Grand High Priest on the signal ability with which he has discharged the duties of his exalted position, and on the fraternal harmony which has prevailed throughout this Grand Jurisdiction during the past year; and in view of the fact that twenty per cent. of the Constituent Chapters have done no work during the last year, and that more than fifty per cent. show either an actual loss or no gain in membership, we especially congratulate him on the fact that he has not been called on to create any new Chapters."

The financial condtion of this Grand Chapter is good—the balance on hand in cash being $13,284.32, in addition to which they have an invested fund of $7,000. I am sorry to observe an adverse report as to Schools of Instruction, a committee having been appointed one year ago to take under consideration the establishment of these schools. We see the advantage in Pennsylvania of fourteen district schools of instruction, in addition to which the Grand High Priest is represented by twenty district deputies selected for their knowledge of Capitular work, and whose duty it is to visit each Chapter in their district once every year and make immediate report to the Grand High Priest of the condition of the Chapters visited. This means some expense, of course, but we regard it as money more wisely expended than the payment of mileage and per diem expenses upon the occasion of Quarterly and Annual Communications, which custom prevails in the Jurisdiction of Indiana. The total membership of the Grand Chapter is 16,619, an increase, as formerly noted, of 285. The Grand Chapter was honored by the presence of Companion M. E. Grand High Priest N. B. Maxey, of Royal Arch Chapter of Indian and Oklahoma Territories, who, before his departure, addressed the Grand Chapter, saying among other things: "I cannot boast of being the Grand High Priest of as great a Jurisdiction as that of Illinois, but what there is of us, I assure you, that they are as zealous Royal Arch Masons as you will find on earth, and with the growth of population that we will have in a few years, we expect to tender you as great a Grand Body as the State of Illinois."

I observe in the list of Masonic publications, regularly sent to the Masonic Temple in Chicago and there kept on file, the recognized publication of Pennsylvania Masons, the "Key Stone," is not one of them. Five pages are given to the review of our Proceedings for 1895, and favorable comment is made upon the same. Considerable space is given to our Centennial observance, and Companion Pearson regrets not being present to enjoy the festivities with us; in which regret we join him, as we feel that we could have shown him a pleasant time.

The following is suggestive:

"Then there was a banquet, and such a 'menu!' and such joyous after-table-talk! We won't say a word about it, but if any of our talking Companions should ever fail to find something in their hollow skulls, we commend this part of the volume to their careful consideration."

Companion Frederick C. Winslow was elected M. E. Grand High Priest; Companion Gil W. Barnard was re-elected R. E. Grand Secretary; and the Grand Chapter is fortunate in having Companion John M. Pearson as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence.

INDIANA, 1896.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Indiana assembled in its *Fifty-first* Annual Convocation in Masonic Temple, in the city of Indianapolis, at 2 o'clock, P. M., on Wednesday, the 21st day of October, A. D. 1896.

The fact that 82 of the 88 chartered Chapters were represented at this Annual Convocation indicates increased interest in Capitular work, and we congratulate the Grand Body on this showing.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Henry W. Mordhurst, read a lengthy and interesting address. Among the dispensations issued was one to La Grande Chapter, permitting them to elect a High Priest, October 13th, 1896; giving as his reason, the

King elected not having been installed, and the Scribe having resigned. To Pennsylvania Royal Arch Masons this dispensation will look strange, inasmuch as under our rules the Scribe could not have resigned, nor could a High Priest be elected from the floor.

A dispensation was refused Perude Chapter, No. 62, to elect a High Priest because the King and Scribe did not join in the petition, all of which is also new to us, as in our Jurisdiction the King would assume the duties of High Priest. Dispensations are granted to three new Chapters. Each Chapter will be located at the county seat of their respective counties. Two charters were arrested because of the unsatisfactory condition of the Chapters.

From the following it would appear that our Indiana Companions have in the past made more of a display than occasion required in appearing in public, and the present Grand High Priest has found it necessary to limit this display, as evidenced by the following circular letter issued from his office September 1st, 1896, and in which we heartily concur, for in our Jurisdiction the robes are sacred to the eyes of Companions alone and are never exhibited to the gaze of the profane.

"*To the Royal Arch Chapters of Indiana:*

[CIRCULAR LETTER.]

"In the performance of Masonic duty and on strictly Masonic occasions, it is at times necessary and appropriate for a Chapter to appear in public as such. It has come to the knowledge of the Grand High Priest that some Chapters when so appearing have not, however, observed the proprieties suitable to such events. The robes and paraphernalia which add dignity and solemnity to the practice of our esoteric rites become inappropriate and ofttimes farcical when worn and displayed in public processions. To guard against anything likely to detract from the decorum and the high standing of the Chapter, it is hereby directed that its paraphernalia be not exhibited in public, and that the only Masonic clothing to be worn when so appearing is—aside from the jewels of the officers—the lamb-skin apron, agreeable to Section 145 of the General Regulations, which reads as follows:

The ritual is giving our good Companions some trouble, which, in our opinion, is richly deserved, as no punishment will be considered too great by us while the authorized work of their Grand Body is permitted to circulate in a printed form. Some idea of the way they do it out West may be gathered from the following clipping from the Grand High Priest's address.

'The High Priest, on answering my letter, admitted that they were using an Eastern work, that he was not aware that the Hacker ritual was obligatory, and that not until the receipt of my letter had he any knowledge that such a work was in the archives of his Chapter. Desiring to satisfy myself more fully as to the existing conditions, I went to Kendallville and witnessed the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree, after which I made a full investigation, whereby it was found that in years past some High Priest, with his obligation resting lightly upon him, discarded the lawful work, bought numerous copies of a printed ritual and taught the same to his officers, so that in this manner the new work had been handed down to the present time."

Would it not be better to burn all your rituals and let the future work in your Jurisdiction be handed down by word of mouth in keeping with ancient usages and customs?

The Grand High Priest concludes his address in the following words:

"My two years' service as Grand High Priest is nearly at an end. The duties of the office, while frequently exacting, have been alloyed with much pleasure. The Grand Chapter, by placing me at the head of its affairs, has greatly honored me, and in return I have given it my best service. With a sense of the responsibilities resting upon me, I have occasionally been compelled to act counter to my personal inclinations and wishes, and some of my Companions may at times have expected a different course from one pursued, but with the light that has been given me I have endeavored faithfully to discharge my obligation, with an eye singly to the best interests of the Grand Chapter and to the honor and glory of the Royal Craft. Content with this consciousness, I confidently submit my acts for your consideration.

"And may the God of our fathers have us ever in His holy keeping."

The Report of the Grand Secretary shows a membership of 6459, this being a net loss for the year of twenty members.

The Report of the Committee on Pay Roll shows that for mileage and per diem expenses $1192.26 was paid out, which looks large to us, inasmuch as in our Jurisdiction no mileage or per diem expenses are allowed.

The Historian, Past Grand High Priest Thomas B. Long, presented some additional historical facts concerning his Grand Chapter. From his writings it is now known that a movement for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Indiana was started as early as November 16th, 1822; although the Grand Chapter was not really formed until December 25th, 1845.

The retiring Grand High Priest was presented with a Past Grand High Priest's jewel, and among the pleasant things said to him by Companion Marshall upon the occasion of its presentation, we clip the following:

"It is more than a perfunctory duty which I perform upon this occasion; it is a heartfelt pleasure. For I remember that for many years you have been my counsellor and friend, and in sunshine and in storm, amid the cloud-tempest and the battle-din of life you have always been staunch and true and loyal. I desire to place upon record, therefore, the appreciation of your Companions in office, and my personal appreciation of your good life and your good works. I can only hope and believe that to the end you will be to us all what you have been in the past—friend, brother, companion, in the true Masonic sense of these terms. It is, therefore, the crowning joy of my official career with you to present you, upon behalf of your Companions in office, with this, the Past Grand High Priest's jewel; and as Holiness to the Lord was engraven upon the coronet which surrounded His brow, so may holiness to the Lord be engraven upon your future life and conduct, and may you be, what you have always been, the same sincere, faithful, upright and unassuming friend."

Companion Mordhurst, in equally tender and fraternal words, returned thanks.

In respect to the presentation of jewels to their Past Grand High Priests, the Jurisdiction of Indiana is a step in advance of that of our own, and we might with pleasure and profit follow our Sister Jurisdiction in this regard. The review of our

Grand Chapter Proceedings for 1895 is lengthy and generous, and the following compliment is paid us upon the general appearance of our last volume.

"There is a continuation of the elegant series of engravings of the different apartments of their magnificent Masonic Temple at Philadelphia in the present book of Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for 1895, in the form of an interior view of the library. In looking upon this beautiful and spacious room with its Corinthian columns, its noble statuary, its cases of books and files of newspapers, one feels like taking down from the well-filled shelves some old and quaint volume of Craft literature, and in the cushions of an easy chair, forgetting for a time the always pressing engagements and ever recurring responsibilities of the world. If the writer were there this moment, even under the urgent demands involved in his present labor, there would, doubtless, occur another illustration of Young's impressive thought:

"Procrastination is the thief of time."

Chairman Long comments upon our Centennial Anniversary, and has this to say as to our expenditure thereat:

"From the December Quarterly Convocation it is learned that the assets of the Grand Chapter consist of investments in bonds amounting to $20,000.00, and a cash balance of $655.57, making a total of $20,655.57. The limit of the cash balance grows out of the expenditure of $1,913 45 on the Centennial Anniversary. Indiana celebrated its Semi-Centennial Anniversary last year, and did it elegantly, at the moderate expense of $347.36, though the menu contained no such item as '*Veuve Clicquot.*'"

Poor Indiana! Allow me to indulge the hope that by the time you get ready to celebrate *your* Centennial Anniversary you may be rich enough to drink the health of Pennsylvania in many cases of "Veuve Clicquot," until your minds become inflated with the comforting thought that your Grand Chapter is the centre around which all the Grand Chapters revolve. We are not proud, but this feeling comes over *us* while imbibing the ordinary Schuylkill water.

Among other bright and pleasant things which Chairman Long says in his conclusion, is the following:

"In these days, when a species of popular moral insanity has added to our vocabulary the term "bicycle craze," to designate a mild degree of mental aberration, which is really, however, not a disease, but simply a kind of physical dissipation which, when its excesses are abandoned, will finally restrain itself to the field of actual usefulness, we have daily accounts of 'century runs,' as matters of marvelous note and importance. How gloriously, above all the weakness and follies of the age, there now appear along the horizon of time the century runs of Freemasonry! They are not many, for the course along which they move is a very long one, even if it is measured by the mile-stone Anno Lucis of Ancient Craft Masonry or Anno Mundi of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, however insignificant it may appear in the light of modern Geology, or still infinitely more so in the unutterable thought of eternity."

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1896.

The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Indian Territory held its Seventh Annual Convocation at Muskogee, Muskogee Nation, Indian Territory, commencing August 13th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

The Proceedings of this Grand Chapter are neat and attractive, and reflect credit upon this Grand Body of tender years. The portraits of Past Grand High Priests Joseph Samuel Murrow and Edmund Henry Doyle properly ornament the Proceedings. Grand High Priest Companion E. T. Walrond delivered a pleasing address, and outlined his administration, showing considerable labor and application to the duties of his important position; concluding the same in the following words:

"Ere the close of the present day the badge of authority will be passed into the hands of my worthy successor. I shall always entertain a lively sense of the great honor which you conferred upon me, as well as pleasant memories of my associations with the Companions.

"May our deliberations be directed by Divine Wisdom; may the Craft in general be impressed with the great importance of the lectures and lessons taught in Royal Arch Masonry, whereby we are enabled to progress in the noble science; may we discover in its legends the foot-prints of an All-Wise Deity preparing the world through the long centuries of Jewish theocracy for the advent of the Redeemer—the stone which the builders rejected now become the head-stone of the corner."

Dispensations for three new Charters were granted, two in Indian Territory and and one in Oklahoma Territory, which is a part of the Jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. The Report of the Treasurer shows a balance on hand of about $1,500. It is the custom of this Grand Chapter to present their retiring Grand High Priest with a Past Grand High Priest's Jewel, but the present Grand High Priest declined to accept the jewel, saying: "Whenever the Grand Chapter will undertake to assist the Grand Lodge in the erection and maintenance of a Masonic Home, then I shall ask that the cost, or price of this jewel, shall be appropriated for this Freemasonry purpose." The Grand Chapter lost but five members through death during the year. Their total membership is now 682.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is a very creditable one, and is from the pen of Past Grand High Priest Companion Robert W. Hill. He gives Pennsylvania ten pages, making favorable comment upon our Centennial observance, the Grand Chapter Proceedings, and the Report on Correspondence. He gives extracts from several addresses made upon the occasion of the Centennial observance, and comments favorably upon the same. He says, however, that while we claim to be the oldest Body of Royal Arch Masons in the world, he expects to see this statement challenged, and successfully, too. We have not seen any of the successful attempts as yet, but we keep our eye open for them. It is said that everything comes to those who wait, but we feel that we shall be obliged to wait a long while until our laurels are taken from us in this regard. He has this to say about the Report on Correspondence, and, of course, we differ from him and do so consistently, because in our Jurisdiction neither public installations nor printed rituals are given or permitted, neither have they been sanctioned by our Grand Body in its history of one hundred years.

"The Report on Correspondence is a masterly review of the work of almost all the existing Grand Chapters. It is, however, the work of a committee of five, each of whom undertook a portion of the work, so that in all

fifty-two Grand Bodies pass under their careful inspection. Our own Proceedings fell to the lot of Companion Tennis, and he gives a fair digest of our Atoka Convocation.

"As we have remarked somewhere in this review of Pennsylvania this Jurisdiction is conservative, and the Committee on Correspondence lets that fact be known so that there shall be no doubt about it. There are many things they do not believe in, and many decisions which would contravene the law of Capitular Masonry as they have it in their Grand Chapter, and yet in the main they approve of the work as it is going forward for the advancement of the Royal Craft. Their faces are as flint against what they call the two 'crying evils of the day,' 'public installations and printed rituals.' As to these two things, we have failed to find any danger threatening the Royal Craft through them. The printed ritual is in use in our Grand Chapter, and in all those which have adopted the work of the General Grand Chapter has greatly tended to strengthen the work, and it has certainly had a tendency to eliminate confusion The many references in the historical addresses, in the Proceedings under the review to 'Cyphers,' indicate that even conservative as is Pennsylvania, the 'Fathers' there made use of the printed or written ritual. For all we know it is possible that in the archives to-day will be found a cypher which contains the whole or part of the ritual. In any event, whether it is now in existence or not, the present objection to the printed ritual did not have the same weight with those who prepared the Cypher, which for some time seems to have represented the standard work. The fact is that no printed ritual can give the spirit of Masonry, and those who seek to obtain its secrets surreptitiously seldom find access to a ritual printed under the direction of any of our Grand Chapters. The imposters are generally furnished with what information they possess by expelled Masons. There are dozens of so-called 'Exposes of Masonry,' but what special harm have they done except excite an idle curiosity? Of course we would prefer to have all the work memorized so accurately and so thoroughly transmitted that there could be no need for anything in print, but this is not done, nor can it be done, so it is well for us to recognize conditions as they are.

"As to public installations, we have never seen proof that they are harmful, but on the contrary have seen good results from them, and until there be something to show evil resulting from them, we shall not say that public installations are a crying evil.

"We have taken pleasure in this review, and wish we could touch upon several other things suggested by the comments of the committee, but space forbids and we must stop where we are.

"M. E. Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, Grand High Priest."

We believe that a visit to our Grand Body or even to any of our Subordinate Bodies, will have the effect of convincing our good Companion that the work can be done, and well done, without the use of Cyphers; and that modesty with which we carry on all our Proceedings is more desirable and attractive than any public exhibition, such as necessarily follows installations when other than members of the Craft are present. We admire the enthusiasm and generally progressive spirit of our Companions in the far-off new country, and don't want them to go astray upon questions that have long since been passed upon by Grand Bodies many years their senior. The conservative spirit of Pennsylvania may not suit the dash and buoyancy of our Western Companions, but in the long years of usefulness you will find that it is the better part of valor to stick close to the ancient usages, customs and landmarks. We shall watch with much interest the further progress of this Grand Chapter to which we extend our hearty congratulations and fraternal regard. For further information and conviction as to public installations, etc., I respectfully refer you to the Correspondence of Pennsylvania and Maine, wherein Companion Africa of our Jurisdiction, answers with many historical facts and prudent, modern customs, the arguments advanced in favor of any publicity of our Rites.

M. E. Companion Napoleon Bonapart Maxey was elected Grand High Priest, and R. E. Joseph Samuel Murrow was elected Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence.

IOWA, 1896.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Iowa convened in its Forty-third Annual Convocation in the hall of Signet Chapter, No. 38, Royal Arch Masons, at Marshalltown, this 15th day of October, A. D. 1896, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

After roll-call the members of the Grand Chapter were welcomed by Companion J. W. Wells, High Priest of Signet Chapter, in a few well-chosen words, saying among other things:

"Like Jerusalem of old, we are in the midst of the land whither the tribes go up. We are in the midst of a great and beautiful state that has just passed her fifty years of statehood, with a record for progress scarcely ever equalled, and never excelled."

Of the 117 Chapters in the Jurisdiction of Iowa, 95 were represented at this convocation. The M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion LeRoy T. Weld, delivered an interesting address, showing that his year had been an active and useful one, and that his labors had been appreciated by his Companions. Dispensations for three new Chapters were granted. In speaking of their ritual, he suggests the printing of 300 or 400 copies, and suggests that they be sold to those desiring them at actual cost. This is an expense that the Companions of Pennsylvania are spared, inasmuch as we adhere to the original intent of Masonic light and knowledge, and have it dispensed only by word of mouth; and in the number of bright Masons and well-equipped Chapters we will compare favorably with any Jurisdiction using a printed ritual, and have the satisfaction at the same time to know that the authorized work of our Grand Body is in possession of only those who are entitled to have it. The present law of the Grand Chapter of Iowa in respect to approval of Subordinate Chapter by-laws is the same as the law in our Jurisdiction, but the Grand High Priest recommends that the section be amended so as to read, "No by-law adopted by any Chapter shall take effect untill approved by the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest," thus delegating to the Grand High Priest additional authority, which may or may not be wise. The recommendation was further supported by favorable report of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

The Grand High Priest concludes his address in the following words:

"With no feeling of false pride on my part for the honors you have bestowed upon me, I shall in the future ever be as ready to fill the humblest place upon the floor as I have been to accept the highest, to which your kindness has raised me. Thanking you all for your uniform courtesy, and for the help so willingly and so efficiently given, whenever asked for."

The Grand Chapter's Charity Fund has the comfortable balance of $8,867.10 in its treasury, and is doing a good work in the distribution of money to needy applicants. The Report of the Special Committee on Cryptic Degrees, recommends that the work of the Cryptic Degrees should be separated from the Grand Chapter, in which recommendation we feel that they are wise, since there are many reasons why the Council of Royal and Select Master should be a separately constituted Grand Body. There was paid out during the year for mileage and per diem expenses, $1,778.83, and the total receipts for the Grand Body during the year were $5,044.25. They have a total membership of 7,186, a net increase for the year of 140 members. Appropriate reference is made to the departed Companions of their Chapter, and a number of pages are dedicated to their memory. Fitting reference is also made to the Distinguished Dead of other Jurisdictions, and pages sacred to their memory are set apart. The Grand Chapter is fortunate in having Past High Priest Companion T. R. Ercanbrack as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and he very cleverly reviews the Proceedings of forty-two Grand Chapters, giving to Pennsylvania her allotted space, and is fraternal in his comment upon all our Proceedings. In speaking of the Centennial observance, he says, "It was done in a manner that cannot easily be improved upon." He quotes in full the remarks made thereat by General Grand High Priest George L. McCahan. The review of Companion Ercanbrack is in keeping with his able efforts of former years, and there is no

indication that his love for poetry has in anywise abated, inasmuch as there are many appropriate and pleasing quotations from the pen of noted authors.

His conclusion is in the following happy words:

"The present year is an American quadrennial. The voice of the sovereign is heard uttering the ominous words, 'Sound Money' and 'Free Silver,' In the business world distrust has supplanted confidence in a great degree. At such a time true friendship is a rich treasure, and most blessed is he who has the resources and inclination to exercise it. The benevolence that is the foundation principle of all great fraternities now becomes conspicuous. How often the pledge of mutual assistance is brought to mind. Severe trial proves—

"'The soul of man is larger than the sky,
Deeper than ocean, or the abysmal dark
Of the unfathomed center.'

"The Royal Arch institution may suffer financial depression, but its devoted members will experience a spiritual elevation that will prove to be glorious.

"The Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa extends to all sister bodies holy greetings. The Committee on Correspondence glows with gratitude for the many kind words uttered for his encouragement. The Capitular corps reportorial is a corps of cultured gentlemen. Each can say of the other—

"'In his commendation I am fed;
It is a banquet to me.'

"And as we recall the impressions made by the reading of forty-five addresses, the encomiums of the Obituary Committees, and deeply fraternal sentiments of the reviewers, we cannot but sing—

"'Such songs have the power to quiet
The restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction
That follows after prayer.'"

Companion Max Beehler was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Alf. Wingate was re-elected Grand Secretary.

KANSAS, 1896.

The Grand Chapter of Kansas convened in the Thirty-First Annual Convocation in Garfield Hall, on Monday, February 17th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion John H. Spencer, presented his annual address, which is a business-like presentation of an active administration. Among the interesting notations we observe the following:

"Thirty years is a long space of time, and the changes are many. There is not present to-day one member who assisted originally in organizing this Grand Chapter, and few, if any, connected with its early history and trials. Each year we miss familiar faces."

Two new Chapters were constituted. Numerous official visits were paid to a number of Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction. Among the decisions made we notice the following:

"1. A Chapter rejecting material cannot waive jurisdiction in favor of some other Chapter, so long as the rejected material resides in the jurisdiction where rejected.

"Dispensations granted by me suspending the requirement that a Companion to be eligible to the office of High Priest must have been previously installed as King or Scribe, and have served as such, have only been in cases where it seemed to be the general desire of the members, and for the welfare of the Capitular rite, members eligible, either declining to serve longer, or not wishing to assume the care, responsibility and attention that the duties of this exalted office properly demand."

It seems to be in the province of the Grand High Priest to waive what in our Jurisdiction would be a matter of law, over which the presiding officer had no authority. They evidently feel the need of a code of by-laws, for the better government of the subordinate bodies, since the Grand High Priest thus refers to the subject: "I therefore recommend that the Committee on Jurisprudence be authorized to prepare and submit to the Grand Chapter at its next annual session a printed code of by-laws, embodying so far as practicable the laws now in

force, with such others as may be requisite and necessary for the government of this Grand Body." He says of their ritual as follows:—"As provided by resolution adopted at our last convocation, Companion Shaver has continued his labor upon an extended and improved ritual for this Jurisdiction. The work has required much study, extended research, tedious and very careful comparisons." After thirty-one years of an existence it strikes us as being a little late to decide upon a ritual. With us the work never changes, and that taught at the constitution of our Grand Chapter one hundred years ago is the authorized work of to-day, and will doubtless be that of a hundred years to come; yet notwithstanding this no printed ritual finds its way into our Chapter Halls.

The Committee on Necrology presented an exhaustive report, naming the illustrious Companions of other Jurisdictions who have entered into rest, and conclude their report in the following language:

To Grand Jurisdictions who have been thus stricken, the Grand Chapter of Kansas extends the hand of sympathy and condolence. Only those who have felt the bitterness of grief can feel or express true sympathy. Let us feel that the bitterness of death is all with those who live. We mourn for those who die, and yet we would not have them back to suffer and die again. Let us look beyond the shortness of life and pangs of death, and dwell rather on that pure existence over the River, where duration is measured by eternity and whose bliss is the joy of an endless love. Let us so live that we may inherit that

"Land where beauty cannot fade,
Nor sorrow dim the eye;
Where true love shall not droop nor be dismayed,
And none shall ever die."

A page is fraternally and affectionately dedicated to the memory of fifty-three Companions "Who have left us for the bright realms beyond the shining river." The distinguished dead of other Jurisdictions are also noticed.

The Proceedings of forty Grand Chapters are ably reviewed by Companion Jacob DeWitt, Chairman, and he had many

kind things to say of Pennsylvania. He does not agree with Past Grand High Priest Tennis in his decision relative to Lackawanna Chapter, which Chapter received the petition balloted for and conferred the Degrees upon ——— without inquiring whether ——— Chapter, being near the place of residence of the applicant, had Masonic objection. He thinks the Chapter, and not the applicant, should be punished. He agrees with him, however, in that the several lectures of Capitular Masonry should not be abridged, and also that not more than one degree should be conferred at a single meeting upon the same candidate. This latter is not the decision of the Grand High Priest, nor the law of the Grand Chapter, but merely a suggestion; and Chapters are permitted in our Jurisdiction to exercise their judgment as to the conferring of more than one degree upon the same candidate at a single meeting. He quotes liberally from the able address of Past Grand High Priest Ezra S. Bartlett, and indorses generally all he says. We observe that it is not necessary for the warrant of a Chapter to be in the Chapter hall during the hours of labor, and has this to say about the law of Pennsylvania Grand Chapter in that regard: "For our part, we consider it no more necessary than that we should be required, yes, compelled, to carry the deed of our house in our pocket to prove our right to live in it." If our good Companion DeWitt will run East and pay us a fraternal visit, I have no doubt that we can convince him that Kansas is wrong in this and in a few other matters that prevail in their Grand Body; and while it is possible for our Grand Chapter to err, yet we prefer to believe that we are generally right upon questions affecting the general good of Capitular Masonry. Reference is made to the correspondence between Companion A. Drummond, of the Grand Chapter of Maine, and Companion Africa, of our Grand Chapter, and pays some pleasing compliments to the latter, generally agreeing with him. The second effort of Companion DeWitt is not only complimentary to him but to the Grand Chapter which

he has the honor to represent. We hope that in the years to come he may take pleasure, as we all will take profit, out of his labors.

KENTUCKY, 1896.

The Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons, held its Annual Convocation in Masonic Temple, Louisville, Kentucky, commencing Tuesday, October 21, 1896, A. I. 2426.

M. E. Grand High Priest John G. Orndorff opened an interesting and exhaustive history of his administration in the following words:

"COMPANIONS:—Through the pleasurable pastimes of some, the business pursuits of others and the toils incident to all, another year has rolled around, and we have assembled at our accustomed place to rebuild and repair the Temple and its furnishings, without hope of fee or reward, save that reward consequent upon a well-spent life and duty well performed"

Fitting reference is made to the dead of their Grand Chapter, and also to the distinguished Companions of other Grand Bodies who have gone from active participation in earthly affairs. He made the re-appointment of several Grand Representatives near other Grand Chapters, but in this connection remarked that he did it in accordance with a long established custom, though conducive of little good to Capitular Masonry or any other Masonry. He strongly recommended the revision and printing of a Grand Chapter Book of Constitution "In order that we may all know where we are at." A number of visitations were made to Subordinate Chapters, and his investigation shows increased interest and satisfactory work throughout his Jurisdiction. He says, "By way of introducing a method of improvement toward a strict adherence to the ritual and rules of Capitular Masonry, following the practice of other Jurisdictions and carrying out an oft-repeated suggestion made to the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, I

have determined upon and made every preparation to have the Royal Arch Degree fully exemplified during this session of the Grand Chapter, believing that there is no legislation more important at this time than a correct and impressive presentation of the esoteric part of our degrees as well as a proper practice pertaining thereto;" in which opinion we heartily concur. It has been a practice of our Grand Chapter for many years to have a degree exemplified at each communication of our Grand Body, with beneficial effect. Referring to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of which the good Companions of Kentucky are justly proud, he has this to say:

"Think of it, Companions! Nearly 1000 helpless ones, 'of the household of faith' among us, have found shelter, and food and raiment, and training, and tender loving care, and a HOME, because they were homeless. During the past year 263 have been cared for, at a cost of only $92.67 per capita. May the scenes you witnessed this afternoon, at the exhibition of our adopted children, awaken an increasing inspiration in your breasts, that shall stimulate you to yet greater deeds of charity, and prove a solace to each of you in your declining days."

The financial condition of the Grand Body is creditable, with a balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the close of Grand Chapter of over $2,000, with an invested fund of over $3,500. The Proceedings of forty-seven Grand Bodies were carefully reviewed by Past Grand High Priest Companion James W. Staton, Chairman, it being the ninth Report prepared by this careful writer, and reflects credit on himself as a reviewer as well upon the appointing power of the Grand Chapter. Pennsylvania has complimentary notices at his hands, the first of which reads as follows:

"Before us is a handsome volume, containing four hundred and fifty-six pages, with a cover of handsome design, printed in bright scarlet. It is the beautiful Centennial Volume. The frontispiece is an elegant view of the Library, Masonic Temple. Inside the title page is a fine steel engraved likeness of the Grand High Priest, Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, and is certainly one of John Sartain's best efforts in that line of art."

Of the after dinner speeches at our Centennial Celebration, he has this to say:

"They were full of eloquence and a burning zeal for the great principles as taught by the Order we all delight to love so much. We advise our brethren and Companions to procure and read the Proceedings of this elegant entertainment, if they desire to be highly edified."

In speaking of the decisions of Past Grand High Priest Bartlett, he says:

"His decisions are nearly all made under local statute, but such as were not so made, we believe to be sound Masonic doctrine."

Referring to our criticism as to the mileage and per diem system which prevails in their Grand Body, he gives as their reason for this expenditure, that in no other way can they secure a fair attendance at their Convocations, other methods having failed.

He refers to the correspondence between Companions Drummond and Africa over the public installation business as a "Battle of thee Giants," and would be glad to quote liberally from the same were it not that it would make his Report too large. Accepting the Proceedings for 1896 as a whole, we are entirely satisfied and pleased with the Proceedings of this Grand Body, in which the writer has more than a passing interest, inasmuch as he has the honor to represent this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, and therefore desires to see them prosper numerically, financially, and above all in harmony, with sound Masonic usages and customs, keeping close to the landmarks and away from the breakers in the form of modern innovations.

LOUISIANA.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Louisiana met in Forty-Ninth Annual Convention at New Orleans February 11th and 12th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426. Seventeen of the nineteen Chapters were represented.

M. E. Grand High Priest Companion A. C. Allen, in delivering his (second) annual address, paid, in clear and chaste language, a well deserved tribute to the moral and civilizing influences exerted by Freemasonry. He noted the adoption of a resolution by the Grand Chapter recognizing the Supreme Grand Chapter of New South Wales, and recommended the same action in relation to the Sovereign Grand Chapter of Victoria. A resolution to that effect was subsequently adopted.

Last year, in our review of this Jurisdiction, we made pretty full extracts from the Grand High Priest's sensible address under the sub-head "Ritual," in which he expressed opposition to surrendering their ancient esoteric work and substituting in its place, a new printed ritual authorized by the General Grand Chapter.

In his address he said:

"When we met here last year, in the Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the written Ritual submitted by the General Grand Chapter to the different Grand Chapters working under its jurisdiction, for their approval or rejection, was fully, impartially and carefully considered. The written or printed Ritual has been in the possession of the High Priests of the Subordinate Chapters for one year, in order that they might study it, use it, and compare it with the unwritten work as recognized in this Jurisdiction, and as taught by our Committee on Work.

"The decision of this Grand Chapter was almost unanimous against the printed Ritual proposed by the General Grand Chapter.

"In this decision the Royal Arch Masons of Louisiana cannot be truthfully charged with a want of considerate thought and deliberation. In their actions they were loyal to the true principles of our moral science, as they understand them They were plainly honest in their convictions, and, I believe, eminently wise in their judgment."

Our beloved Companion Drummond, of Maine, not admiring the position taken last year by Grand High Priest Allen concerning *printed* rituals, made some incisive criticism on the address of the latter. The Grand High Priest thus responds:

"My Companion accuses me of an enthusiasm that has carried my utterances beyond the bounds of Masonic propriety. The Royal Craft of this nation have an exalted respect for the opinions of this eminent Companion,

and for his profound Masonic knowledge. A true appreciation of this fact should influence him to, at least, tolerate the opinions which may differ from his in reference either to the policy or the 'groundwork of Masonry.' His appreciation of Masonic fairness, at all events, should guard him against the error of unjust attack.

"He makes the special charge that my position is in direct conflict with the universality of Masonry, and bases this charge on the assertion that I claim that 'Louisiana work is superior to any other work.' My address is a matter of record, and must speak for itself. It was, presumably, before my Companion when he was acting the part of a self-constituted censor. The mere comparing of the language of that address with his broad charge, as to what it contains in reference to this matter, will show that his accusation is inaccurate, unjust and un-Masonic."

In the account of the Grand Treasurer, he charges himself with moneys received from "R. Lambert, *Grand Recorder*. $1,426." In the *Grand Secretary's* Report he takes credit for that amount paid the Grand Treasurer. An official designation has been slipped in, doubtless inadvertently, that is not known in Ancient Masonry.

In this Jurisdiction *all* the officers of the Grand Chapter are elected. An amendment to the Constitution providing for the election of only the first six of said officers was offered and laid over to the next Annual Grand Convocation. The whole number of members in the nineteen chartered Chapters, December 31, 1895, was 1,005, an increase of 66 over 1894.

The Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, covers twenty-six pages. The Chairman names the Jurisdictions, and adds:

"Making forty-eight in all. We are careful to record this count to save the time of those Chairmen who believe that it is important for their constituents to know the precise number of journals that our Louisiana Committee have read."

Under Arkansas, the Committee expresses the opinion that it is discourteous for Chapters of different Jurisdictions to be corresponding about their material. The Grand Chapter of

Pennsylvania (15,957 members), which this Committee is so magnanimous as to say "is as much of a Grand Chapter today as is the Grand Chapter of Arizona" (187 members), does not permit its Subordinate Chapters to carry on such correspondence. The doubt expressed under District of Columbia, of the right of a Chapter of the District to act on the petition of a Senator, Representative, or other person claiming a residence elsewhere, is well founded, unless, as is required in this Jurisdiction, inquiry shall have been made of the Chapter nearest the residence of the petitioner, etc. Under "Pennsylvania," the letter of Companion Wm. James Hughan, addressed to the M. E. Grand Secretary, and dated England, 9th April, 1894, is printed in full. This, and the action of the Grand Chapter in the case of an offending Companion, seem to be the only incidents worthy of notice by the Committee. In the Proceedings (1894) from which Companion Hughan's letter is quoted, the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest referred to the approaching Centennial of the Grand Chapter, November 23, 1895; the newly installed Grand High Priest also mentioned it in his address; and a committee was appointed to prepare a proper programme. Invitations to attend the celebration of the Centennial, were sent to the Grand High Priests of all Grand Chapters with which we are in fraternal correspondence. Among the very numerous responses received, there was one from the Grand High Priest of *Arizona*, but none from Louisiana.

Under Kentucky, the Committee expresses objection to the installation of a High Priest elsewhere than in his own Chapter. It says, and we approve:

> "No man should be installed in any Masonic office against whom there is a breath of suspicion unanswered and unsatisfied, and concerning whom there is not given ample opportunity to suggest any objections that may exist."

Under New York, it doubts the propriety of a decision of the Grand High Priest, that a Chapter could confer Degrees in

a place other than its hall, and under Ohio, approves the decision that an installation of any officer in private, or outside the Chapter hall, is null and void. We are in accord with the opinion of the Committee in both instances.

The Committee made frequent use of the word *anent*, a Scotticism rarely used in this latitude.

Under the present Constitution of the Grand Chapter any Companion, an active member of a Subordinate Chapter, is eligible to any office in the Grand Chapter. An amendment offered providing that:

"No one but a High Priest or a Past High Priest, and a member of a Subordinate Chapter in this Jurisdiction, shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Chapter except that of Grand Chaplain and Grand Sentinel, who need not be High Priests or Past High Priests,"

Was laid over until the next Annual Grand Convocation.

After again glancing over this condensed but carefully prepared Report, the question presented itself, "Would it not be best for all Committees on Correspondence to follow the example of brevity that this Report sets?" The general drift is toward expansion, and not always with the view of edifying the Craft or promoting fraternal intercourse.

Companion Robert H. Cage, Franklin, was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Richard Lambert, New Orleans, was re-elected R. E. Grand Secretary.

MAINE.

The Seventy-First Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter was held at Portland, beginning on the 5th day of May, A. D., 1896, A. I. 2426, with representatives of forty-five Chapters in attendance.

M. E. Grand High Priest Companion Henry S. Webster, in his excellent Annual Address, referred with satisfaction to the fact that the annual returns of the Chapters showed an in-

crease in membership, notwithstanding the financial disturbances and perplexities of the preceding year.

This Jurisdiction suffered the loss by death of Companion Stephen Jewitt Young, who served as Grand High Priest in 1870 and 1871. Grand High Priest Webster paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased.

The Grand High Priest constituted a new Chapter, Pentecost No. 55, at Boothbay Harbor, October 3rd, 1895, and visited the eight Chapters assigned him, which he found generally prosperous. The other Grand Officers and District Deputy Grand High Priests made equally favorable reports of the Chapters inspected by them. It may be fairly assumed, therefore, that Capitular Masonry in Maine is in a prosperous condition.

We reproduce the concluding paragraph of the address, and commend the sentiments therein expressed:

"In the high office to which I was elected a year ago, by your kindly suffrages, and in which any failure to perform meetly my part has resulted from lack of ability and not of will, I have been more than ever impressed with the dignity of our professions, and the sacred character of our obligations. Starting with the belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, not as an abstract conception or a dumb, incomprehensible force, but as an actual, self-conscious personality, Royal Arch Masonry leads to the consideration of our relations to Him, and emphasizes and enforces its teachings on this subject by lessons drawn from human experience and historic events. If we profit aright from the instructions thus freely offered us, our shrines and tabernacles may become as truly the abodes of the divine majesty, as those around which the priests of Israel chanted their psalms of praise; and our lives and characters will shine with virtues more resplendent than the colors which beautify the robes of our High Priests, or mutely appeal to us from the folds of our consecrated vails"

The entire expenses for the year were $1,567.05, after the payment of which there remained in the hands of the treasurer a comfortable balance of $2,140.73—proof of careful management of the finances. There are fifty-four Chapters with a membership of 5,897.

The Report on Correspondence is, as usual, from the pen of Companion Josiah H. Drummond. It did not reach our committee until December 10th.

Under Pennsylvania he wrote words of high commendation of the Report of the Grand Chapter for 1895. He mentioned the celebration of the Centennial, November 23d, the historical addresses delivered on that occasion, the special memorial services held by Subordinate Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction, and named the distinguished office-bearers from other Grand Jurisdictions, who honored the Grand Chapter by their presence and added dignity and good cheer by their fraternal addresses.

He is apprehensive "that Pennsylvania is following some of the fashions which some of her sons have criticised, if not denounced," and referred to Grand High Priest Bartlett's report of the constituting of Chapter No. 279, at Kane, in which he said:

"An incident of the occasion was the elaborate banquet prepared and served by the ladies of Kane, which was highly appreciated and most enjoyable."

Our Companion added:

"As our Companions have gone so far as to highly enjoy the presence of ladies at a Masonic banquet, although in a serving capacity, we think the time will soon come when the ladies will be promoted to seats!"

We advise Companion Drummond not to be too hasty in arriving at conclusions, and not to cling to the hope that Pennsylvania is about to turn back upon its traditions. In this Jurisdiction, at a "Masonic" banquet, none but Masons can be present. The entertainment at Kane was *after* the Chapter was constituted and the Grand Chapter closed. It was provided by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Congregational Church, and was prepared and served in the opera house, and was in no sense a "Masonic banquet."

Coming to the Pennsylvania Report on Correspondence, Companion Drummond agrees with our Chairman that

"public Masonic ceremonies should be performed by lodges, and not by Royal Arch Masons." Next we find this excessively fraternal expression:

"We have sometimes thought that the only reason why Pennsylvania Masons do not *say* that they are infallible, is because they think that everybody ought to know it without their saying so."

He concurs with us in the practice of the usage that recognizes the use of volunteers or substitutes in conferring the R. A. Degree.

In 1895 Companion Drummond wrote:

Companion Africa devotes considerable space to a remark of ours which seems a necessary inference from what he had written. As we understood him, he holds under the law of his Grand Chapter no Mark Master Mason can adopt a mark that any Pennsylvania Mark Master Mason has previously adopted. To show the folly of this, we said "One would judge from this that Pennsylvania claims jurisdiction throughout the world!"

In 1894 he wrote:

"Companion Henderson had laid it down as a principle, that no Mark Master could select a mark which any other Mark Master had previously selected."

In 1895 we wrote:

"We deny that either of the Companions above named made the statement which Companion Drummond attributes to them, and we challenge him to the proof. Let us have facts, and not his 'inferences or understandings.'"

This is the way he met our challenge to produce proof of the truth of his assertions:

"We understand that in Pennsylvania, if a Companion having a particular Mark discovers that some other Companion had adopted it before he did, he would forsake his mark. Apparently the rule and usage in Pennsylvania are different in this respect from what they are in any other Jurisdiction with which we are acquainted. The rule elsewhere is, that when a Companion has once had his mark recorded, he has no power to change it."

We note with approval the views of the Chairman of the Committee, that it does not follow that because a man is deemed worthy to be a Master Mason, he is to be considered worthy to be a Royal Arch Mason.

If we have properly comprehended Companion Drummond's remarks upon M. E. Past Grand High Priest Tennis' review, Pennsylvania and Maine are in accord in recognizing the decisions of a Grand High Priest as law until reversed by some successor.

On the subject "Ancient York Masons," if Companion Drummond, or any other reviewer supposes that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania claims direct descent from the old Lodge at York, England, he is mistaken. The warrant for the Grand Lodge, issued by (Ancient) Grand Lodge of England as appears from the registry, was dated July 15th, 1761, but was lost in transit. A duplicate, bearing date June 20th, 1764, reads: "We, the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (according to the Old Constitution) granted by his Royal Highness, Prince Edwin, at York, in the year of our Lord nine hundred and twenty-six," etc. All Grand Lodge records prior to July 29th, 1779, having been "mislaid or carried away by some enemies to the Royal Art," during the occupation of Philadelphia by the British, 1777–78, the earliest mention in the remaining records, of "Ancient York Masons," is in the minutes of the Grand Lodge, December 20th, 1779, wherein it is recited:

> "The Worshipful Master of No. 2 produced his Warrant, granted June 7th, 1758, No. 69 of Ancient York Masons, in England, but held as No. 2 in Pennsylvania, and desired the same might be renewed under the Authority of this Grand Lodge, preserving the precedency of said No. 2 in Pennsylvania, and reciting the Date and preamble of the same, which was agreed to."

In the Pennsylvania Ahiman Rezon, adopted Nov. 22, 1781, and printed in 1783, which Companion Drummond has referred to, it will be found, p. 27, "Chap. II of the General Regulations among Ancient York Masons," etc., Dec. 27, 1791,

a committee was appointed by the Grand Lodge to prepare "an address to our Illustrious Brother George Washington, President of the United States." March 5th, 1792, the committee reported that they had addressed "His Excellency, George Washington, President of the United States,

"Sir and Brother:

"The Ancient *York Masons* of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania," etc. His reply was addressed as follows:

"To the Ancient York Masons of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, etc."

The words "Ancient York Mason" are used in our esoteric work. The abbreviations "A. Y. M." were frequently, if not universally, used in Lodge by-laws, minutes and forms prior to 1878, and they remain in codes of by-laws that have not been revised since the date mentioned, also upon the reverse of the jewels of the officers of the Grand Lodge. Thus it will be noticed that in using the designation "Ancient York Masons," we are following a custom that prevailed in this Jurisdiction as far back as our earliest preserved records date, nearly one hundred and twenty years.

Companion Drummond, in reference to a part of the report penned by Companion Clark of the Pennsylvania Committee said "He explains the system of membership of, and method of voting in, the Grand Chapter," and he asks among other things, "How long the rule Companion Clark referred to has prevailed?"

Our esteemed Companion Clark having been called to the Grand Chapter above, we will reply for him. The right of the Master and Wardens of a Lodge to nominate and send a Brother of the Lodge to represent them and the Lodge in the Grand Lodge, was recognized in the Ahiman Rezon of 1781, (p. 60) and in that of 1825, (p. 157). Such representatives were generally designated proxies, and their votes were limited. On the 4th day of March, 1867, the Grand Lodge amended the Ahiman Rezon, so as to authorize the election of represen-

tatives, and it conferred upon them the powers described by Companion Clark. The Grand Chapter soon thereafter adopted a similar amendment to its Constitution.

Referring to our method of dealing with Masons unlawfully made, Companion Drummond remarked that "It turns out a a man, *who is not a Mason*, who has learned absolutely and by authority all the secrets of Freemasonry; without being under the slightest obligation to keep them." In this our Companion is mistaken. The man unlawfully made is under precisely the same obligation as a resigned, suspended or expelled Mason.

Companion Drummond devotes fifteen closely printed pages to history, ancient and modern, and to profuse criticism of Pennsylvania Masonry and Pennsylvania Masons. Excepting as to one or two things, no reply is needed. On page 410, in writing of the old account book of the First Lodge remaining in the archives of the Historical Society, our Companion in that spirit of *fraternity* which is such a conspicious feature of his review when Pennsylvania is under consideration, asks "Now is Liber B. *another forgery?*"

It may not be pleasant for our esteemed Companion to contemplate that in Pennsylvania, where, in his superior judgment, "some of our work is farcical in the extreme," there exists a well-authenticated Lodge account book, designated Liber B., bearing dates earlier than any similar record elsewhere on the continent. Its authenticity cannot be impeached by inuendo. It is, and has been for many years, the property of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

On pages 405 and 411 he resorts to his favorite amusement of "threshing the old straw" of Past Grand Master Joseph R. Chandler attending a public meeting in a church, December 27th, 1849, at which the officers of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia were installed. We said last year of Companion Drummond:

"He has taken extra pains to impress upon us the fact that in those Jurisdictions where public installations are indulged in, the ceremony is cut in two, one part performed in view of the public and the other within the tyled Lodge or Chapter. Accepting his explanation, then, the *public* ceremony can be performed in any suitable place in the view and hearing of any one who chooses to attend. Therefore, if Brother Chandler was present during the public ceremony, he committed no Masonic offense."

His reply is as follows:

"We have never said any such thing; we *have* said and say now, that the part of the installation ceremonies which in Pennsylvania cannot be performed in a tyled Lodge of *Master Masons*, but only in the presence of *Past Masters*, is in like manner performed only in the presence of Past Masters, whether the installation is public or in a tyled Lodge."

This is technically true in the Grand Lodge of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. But how of the Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary? No part of the installation of any elective officer of a Grand or Subordinate Lodge in Pennsylvania can be performed in the presence of the profane.

Companion Drummond designated Brother Joseph R. Chandler as the most prominent Mason in Pennsylvania when he (Companion D.) was made a Mason. During the official persecution of Masons and Masonry in this Commonwealth, 1835–6, Brother Chandler offered a courageous and dignified resistance. After serving in lower stations, he was called to the East. He performed the duties of R. W. Grand Master with marked ability. From the close of his official term, December 27th, 1842, until June 2d, 1845, inclusive, he was present at fifteen of the eighteen Communications of the Grand Lodge. From the last mentioned date until August 4th, 1851, inclusive, a period of over six years, forty-four Communications were held, at not one of which was Brother Chandler present. This covers the date, December 27th, 1849, at which the public demonstration is alleged to have occurred at Washington. From 1842 until 1851, the Grand Lodge records show that Brother Chandler's surviving predecessors,

Bayse Newcomb, 1818–21; Josiah Randall, 1822–23; James Harper, 1825; Samuel Badger, 1829–30; John M. Read, 1837–38, and Samuel H. Perkins, 1839–40; and his successors, Cornelius Stevenson, 1843; William Barger, 1844–45; James Page, 1846–47, and Peter Fritz, 1848–49, were often in attendance at the Communications. These facts are given without comment, and the reader can judge for himself who were the active Grand and Past Grand Masters from 1842 until 1851. Yet Companion Drummond says (p. 411):

"Now most Masons will believe that Brother Chandler in 1849 knew better what the old usage and law were, than the present generation of Pennsylvania Masons do, until they produce, as they have not done, and apparently cannot do, record evidence to the contrary."

On page 414 we read:

"When the innovation of abolishing public constitution of Lodges, the public installation of their officers, and the performance of other public ceremonies by the Lodge and Grand Lodge was first introduced in Pennsylvania, we cannot tell."

We are not surprised at his conclusion. He cannot find what did not occur. He assumes that a recent generation of Masons has changed the "old usage and law" in Pennsylvania as to installation of officers, and asks us to prove a negative. The best evidence of what a Grand Lodge does is to be found in its written records.

The reprint of the minutes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from 1779 to 1810 inclusive, has been published and is accessible to the public. By an inspection of the volumes it will be seen that from the time Provincial Grand Master William Ball declined further service in 1782, down to and including 1810, a Grand Master was elected annually and installed in Tyled Grand Lodge, on or near St. John's Day, December 27th. These Communications were regularly opened and closed.

Coming down to the Chandler period, Annual Grand Communications regularly opened and closed, at which the elective Grand officers were installed, were held on St. John's Day, December 27th, in each year from 1843 to 1850, both years included. Brother Chandler was present at these Communications held in 1843 and 1844.

In the reprint, there are accounts of six occasions when the Grand Lodge appeared in public procession, to wit.:—

1. December 27th, 1783, Grand and Subordinate Lodges, in attending St. Paul's Church.

2. December 27th, 1784, the same, in attending Christ Church.

3. December 27th, 1786, the same, in attending St. Paul's Church.

4. February 22d, 1800, the same, in attending Zion Church.

5. December 27th, 1802, the same, on the occasion of the dedication of the Filbert Street Masonic Hall.

6. May 31st, 1810, the same, in attending the funeral of Past Grand Master William Ball.

In none of these instances was the Grand or a Subordinate Lodge opened except on December 27th, 1802, when the Grand Lodge was opended *after* the Brethren had entered the hall.

The usages and customs that were observed a century ago, and when Brother Chandler was Grand Master, are followed now.

In our review of Maine in 1894 (pp. 115 and 116), we quoted the first and last paragraphs of the "Account of the Procession of the Brethren to and from Church," December 28, 1778, as it appeared in the Ahiman Rezon of 1781, to show that there was no evidence therein that a Grand Lodge had been opened on that occasion. In reply, Companion Drummond wrote, 1895 (pp. 230, 231):

"We have a strong impression that there is what we consider still stronger evidence in that part of the account which Companion Africa does not copy.

* * * * As we remember, also, Dr. Smith states that the brethren *in the church* gave certain signs after their manner, substantially the same as the 'Public Grand Honors.'"

To this we responded in 1895, (p. 341)

"Well, his 'impression' is erroneous, and his 'remembrance' as usual, is at fault. There is not one word in the account about either the opening or closing of a Grand or Subordinate Lodge, or about the 'Brethren in the Church' giving certain 'signs' or any 'signs.'

"Now as Companion Drummond is so very keen to extract from this account some justification for a Grand Lodge *opened as such* appearing at a public ceremony, we propose to procure and loan him for a reasonable time, a copy of the Smith Ahiman Rezon of 1781, on condition that he prints in his next Report a full and exact copy of the *Procession of the Brethren to and from the Church*, December 28, 1778. We do not copy it because it would unnecessarily expand this communication; because it is not necessary for us to prove a negative, and because if we did print it, we would expect, from the feeling displayed by our dear Companion that he would still be under a "strong impression that we had purposely omitted some part of it."

The reader who cared to follow this discussion will remember that the point was whether a Grand Lodge was opened or not, December 28th, 1778. Our remarks were predicated on Dr. Smith's *account of the procession*; they were made in good faith and were correct.

Just now we notice a question put to us by our Companion on page 410, and we answer: *Our* copy of the Ahiman Rezon of 1781 is in a distant part of the Commonwealth, and was not consulted in this discussion. While we cannot now assert positively that it is a complete copy, we believe it is.

We knew that the "Life of Rev. William Smith, D. D.," contained a copy of the "*Account of the Procession of the Brethren to and from the Church*," as it appeared in the Ahiman Rezon, and as that work was close at hand it was consulted, and we were reassured thereby that there was nothing in the "account" about the Brethren having given "Certain signs;" hence our remarks in 1895.

After reading Companion Drummond's especially fraternal remarks on page 416 of his Report of 1896, we referred to a *complete* copy of the Ahiman Rezon of 1781, and compared it with the "account" in the Life of Dr. Smith. The Life, on pages 11, 12 and 13 of Vol. II, gives a statement that a Committee of the Grand Lodge was appointed in 1778 to wait upon Dr. Smith and request him to deliver a sermon on the following St. John's Day, December 28th. The events of that day are given substantially as follows:

1. The order of the Procession, as it appears in the Ahiman Rezon, page 163.

2. "The Grand Symphony," as it appears in the Ahiman Rezon, page 164.

3. "After which Dr. Smith preached a well-adapted sermon." The place of the text is given, but there is no report of the sermon.

The Ahiman Rezon, however, gives a report of the sermon on pages 145-162. The last sentence on page 162 and a foot-note thereto appear as follows:

"But I will detain you no longer, Brethren! You all pant to have a Foretaste of the joy of Angels, by calling forth into immediate Exercise this heavenly Virtue of CHARITY; whereby you will give *GLORY to the THRICE BLESSED THREE, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God over all!"

We confess that we were remiss in referring to the "Life of Rev. William Smith, D. D., instead of the Ahiman Rezon itself. While the "Account of the Procession" is silent on the subject of "signs," the foot-note of the sermon in the Ahiman Rezon, as quoted above, states that a "sign" was given. Therefore, while our original statement was correct, we cheerfully admit that we were in error as to the action of the "Brethren in the Church."

**At the word* "GLORY" *the* BRETHREN *rose together; and, in reverential Posture, on pronouncing the Names of the* TRI-UNE GOD, *accompanied the same by a correspondent Repetition of the Ancient Sign or Symbol of Divine Homage and Obeisance; concluding with the following* RESPONSE—

"AMEN! So let it ever be!"

What that sign was, and its weight as evidence in establishing the truth of Companion Drummond's contention that a Grand Lodge was opened on the occasion referred to, or that "Apparently the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in its early days, transacted its business *frequently, if not generally, without opening as a Lodge,*" in the light of the authorities already cited to the contrary in this review, the intelligent and impartial reader will judge.

Companion Henry S. Webster, of Gardiner, was re-elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Stephen Berry, R. E. Grand Secretary. The next Annual Convocation will be held in Portland, May 4, 1897.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this Jurisdiction, now lacking but little more than a year of its Centenary, met in Quarterly Convocation, March 10, June 9, and September 8, and in Annual Convocation, December 8, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

At the March Convocation, Companion J. Gilman Waite, M. E. Grand High Priest, reminded the Grand Chapter that on the 13th day of March, 1898, it will have reached the century mark, and he recommended that action be taken at once for the celebration of the Centennial, by the appointment of an Executive Committee with full power to appoint all sub-committees necessary for the consummation of its plans. The Grand Chapter adopted the suggestion, and it was voted that the Executive Committee shall consist of five, two of whom shall be the present Grand High Priest and his successor in office. The Grand High Priest then appointed as the three remaining members of the Committee, Companions Arthur G. Pollard, M. E. P. G. H. P., J. Albert Blake, M. E. P. G. H. P., and Seranus Bowen, R. E. Grand Secretary.

We do not propose to invite a controversy with M. E. G. H. P. Companion Waite, but we think he is in error in his announcement that Massachusetts enjoys the distinction of having on its rolls "the first organized Royal Arch Chapter in the country." Companion Alfred F. Chapman, P. G. H. P. of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, U. S. A. who, by reason of the fact that the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania has never seen the necessity of becoming a constituent of the General Grand Chapter, has no reason to be prejudiced in favor of Pennsylvania, writes over his own signature in the "History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders," 1891, p. 601:

"The records show that Royal Arch Lodge No. 3, in Philadelphia, had the degree in 1767; and those of St. Andrew's Chapter in Boston, first called Royal Arch Lodge, that the degree was conferred by it, first, on August 28th, 1769. Since that time it has remained secure in its superior place in Royal Arch Masonry. The term Royal Arch Lodge was succeeded by Chapter and Royal Arch Chapter. Chapter was used in Connecticut as early as September 5th, 1783; in Pennsylvania, September 5th, 1789; in New York, April 29th, 1791; in Massachusetts, December 19th, 1794; and, it is not without reason to say at considerably earlier periods."

At the Annual Convocation, exemplification of the Mark, Past Masters', Most Excellent Masters' and Royal Arch Degrees, was first in order. Sixty-eight of the seventy-four Chapters were represented. The proposition to amend the Constitution in such a way as would permit a Brother to present a petition for the Capitular Degrees to any Chapter within the Jurisdiction, under some such regulation as prevails in Pennsylvania, having been reported upon adversely by the Committee to which it was referred, was not adopted. The finances are in a healthy condition. The assets amount to $13,808.18. The annual address of Companion Waite, M. E. G. H. P., at the close of his third year of service, is a very sensible document.

He reports the issuance of a number of dispensations rendered necessary by the exigencies of the times, most of which would have been issued in Pennsylvania under like circumstances.

During the first year, seven District Convocations were held, all of which were attended by the Grand High Priest, who reports that they were productive of much substantial benefit.

Under the head of "Notices," the Grand High Priest said :

"It is maintained that every member of the body should receive a notice on which is stated the matters of business that are to be acted upon at the Convocation ; that the name of each candidate to be balloted upon should be borne upon the notice, giving his residence, occupation, the name of the Lodge where he was raised, and the name of the Companion who recommends him. So much as this is due to those members who, by reason of age, distance from the Lodge room, or other equally valid reason, do not find it convenient to attend every Convocation. It is due to them that they know who seeks to enter the Chapter."

Under the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania it is made the duty of the Secretary of a Chapter to

"Issue to all the members notice of all stated meetings, in which he shall give the full name, age, occuption, and residence of every petitioner for Degrees and membership or membership only, whose petition is pending ; but he shall not give the name of the recommenders or of the Committee of Inquiry in said notice."

Formerly it was the practice of all Chapters in their notices for stated meetings, to add the name of each petitioner, the names of the recommenders, and the names of the Committee of Inquiry to which the petition was referred. It was found that improper use was made of a knowledge of the identity of the recommenders of a petitioner, or of the names of the members of the Committee of Inquiry thereon, and then it was decided that neither the names of the recommenders nor of the members of the Committee to which the petition was referred, should be printed on the notices.

Companion Seranus Bowen, who ably served the Grand Chapter for a number of years as R. E. Grand Secretary, was

unanimously elected Grand High Priest. We compliment Companion Bowen, that the Grand Chapter in this advancement fitly recognized the long, faithful and efficient service rendered by him in the station he has just vacated to assume a more exalted one, where he will have a wider field in which to futher demonstrate his usefulness to the Craft.

The current Report on Foreign Correspondence is from Companion Bowen's pen. It is his sixth. The Proceedings of forty-three Grand Chapters were passed in review, and he quoted therefrom many subjects of general interest, and commented thereon in a fraternal manner. Educated in different schools, and viewing matters Masonic from different standpoints, we cannot always assent to his conclusions, yet on many subjects we are in hearty accord.

Under Connecticut we find an extract from the review by its Committee of the Proceedings of South Dakota, as follows:

> "In his conclusion he raises the question as to the usefulness of the General Grand Chapter, as at present constituted If we understand him aright, he would enlarge its powers, ever making it a controlling body. To this we object. That every Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter is supreme in its own jurisdiction, has almost the force of a landmark and will not be surrendered to any governing body. We fully believe it is useful as an advising body, and does much to unite and strengthen the social bonds of brotherhood; as such, it is worth all that it cost."

South Dakota (if the quotation is accurate) seems to think that the General Grand Chapter, as at present constituted, is not an organization of much usefulness, and that its powers should be enlarged; but Connecticut claims that its Grand Chapter is supreme within its own Jurisdiction. Here are extreme views of two Grand Chapters, both constituents of the General Grand Chapter.

We agree with South Dakota, that the General Grand Chapter, to be an organization of real, substantial benefit to Capitular Masonry, must be made the supreme authority therein. Connecticut, it appears, will not assent to surrender supremacy

within its Jurisdiction. Other Jurisdictions take the same position. Pennsylvania has repeatedly but respectfully declined to become a constituent of the General Grand Chapter. What, then, is the utility of a General Grand Chapter? It does not appear to have any method of enforcing its regulations or decrees except in Chapters warranted by it. "It can exercise no doubtful powers, nor powers by implication merely; and all powers not hereby granted (in its constitution) are reserved to the Grand and Subordinate Chapters of the several States, or to Royal Arch Masons individually." [Const. General Grand Chapter, Art. I, Sec. 7.]

In these quotations and comments, or any others that we may make, we are not to be understood as reflecting in the slightest degree upon the General Grand Chapter or any officer thereof. The officers of the General Grand Chapter are distinguished Royal Arch Masons, several of whom, especially the present M. E. General Grand High Priest, have been welcomed visitors to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Under District of Columbia, we find Companion Singleton quoted as saying, concerning the Companions of Texas:

"The union of the Grand Chapters constitutes a 'Bund' and not a Sovereignty. It is like the 'Leagues,' which are formed for the good of the whole, and not for the purpose of controlling in any way the action of any one of the constituents. In no part of the 'Constitution' of the General Grand Chapter is there a penalty."

We copy with approval this paragraph found under Nebraska:

"We think that all the Grand Chapters have had experience of the demoralizing effect of starting a Chapter where there was not a reasonable chance of its being anything but an element of weakness rather than of strength.

"Too many times new Chapters are started because some ambitious man thinks that he can more easily attain the honor of being Past High Priest in that way, and the body goes on two or three years and then becomes a burden. Great care should be taken to see that older Chapters are not weakened by injudicious forming of new ones"

Companion Bowen gave the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for 1895 fraternal notice. Of the celebration of the Centennial, November 23rd, he wrote:

"The Centennial was celebrated at Philadelphia by the Grand Chapter, and at the same time by many of the Subordinate Chapters throughout the State. In company with our Grand High Priest, J. Gilman Waite, we attended the celebration by the Grand Chapter, which was on a scale commensurate with the dignity and influence of this strong and much respected body of Royal Arch Masons. We shall long remember the occasion as one of great pleasure. We remember with especial pleasure the courtesies received from Companion Cary, the Grand Secretary, and Companions Henderson and Africa of the Correspondence Committee."

A number of decisions of the M. E. Grand High Priest are quoted, and considerable space is given to abstracts from the historical addresses delivered at the Centennial. The closing paragraph of this excellent review is:

"The Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania we always read with great interest, and the one now in hand exceeds all its predecessors in interest and in beauty. We have occupied a great deal of space in its review, and we leave it with regret, for there is much more that we would like to transfer to our pages."

The Proceedings are embellished with an excellent steel engraving of Companion J. Gilman Waite, the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest, and an engraving of the new seal which occupies a place on the title page. The number of members reported is 14,577. The Grand Chapter and its Subordinates appear to have experienced a year of prosperity. Each Chapter performed work, resulting in a total number of exaltations of 1,098. The Grand Chapter has entered upon a new Masonic year, stronger numerically, financially, and socially than ever before.

Companion Seranus Bowen, M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion J. Albert Blake, R. E. Grand Secretary, Boston.

MICHIGAN.

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons held its Forty-seventh Annual Convocation in the city of Detroit, commencing on Tuesday, January 21st, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426. One hundred and twenty-four of its 127 Chapters were represented.

M. E. Companion Charles D. Blanchard, Grand High Priest, delivered an excellent address, treating of a number of topics of both local and general interest to the Craft.

In his necrology for the year he notes the decease of the distinguished Companions of other Jurisdictions, and touchingly records the loss sustained by the Grand Chapter in the death of Right Excellent Grand King Companion Charles P. Hunt, and of Past Grand High Priest Michael Shoemaker. The first named was in the vigor of manhood, aged 37 years, and the other had reached his 77th mile-stone in life. Appropriately the Grand High Priest wrote: "The young may die, and the old must die."

From the decisions rendered which were approved by the Grand Chapter, we extract in substance, but not in words, the following:

"A Brother who has lost the first two fingers of the right hand at the third joint, is disqualified from receiving the Degrees conferred in a Chapter.

"It is a very essential duty of the Committee to ascertain the standing of a candidate in his Lodge, and the question should be answered specifically in their Report.

"In the absence of any law specifically defining the duties of an Investigation Committee on application, it is very evident if investigation means anything, it means a thorough inquiry into the eligibility, qualifications and worthiness of the candidate for the Degrees conferred in the Chapter; and it is *my opinion* that a Committee on Application failing to obtain the information above mentioned or failing to embody the same in their report, would be derelict in their duty."

He (the Grand High Priest) cites this case: A. B. was twice rejected in Chapter No. 74. First, May 1st, 1885; second, April

6th, 1887. Subsequently he petitioned Chapter No. 16, was elected and received the Degrees therein. No. 74 complained of the action of No. 16, but no evidence was adduced to show that the Grand Secretary was notified of either rejection.

The Grand High Priest therefore recommended the adoption of new forms of petition and report of the Committee of Investigation. In the first, the applicant is required to state if he has hitherto made application and been rejected; also to state when and where he was born, and in what Lodge he received the Master Mason's degree. The Commitee in its report is expected to state the name and number of the Lodge of which the applicant is a member; that he has resided within the jurisdiction of the Chapter for the last six months; that he is physically competent for admission; and if he had applied to any other Chapter and was rejected therein. The recommendation was approved by the Grand Chapter.

One of the questions propounded to the Grand High Priest was: "Can a Companion be expelled for non-payment of dues?" His answer was, "No. The application of extreme penalty in punishment for a minor offence is at variance with both civil and Masonic law." The Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the answer of the Grand High Priest (*inter alia*) was referred, reported that:

"This answer is not in accordance with Edict XV, which provides that when a Companion has been tried and convicted for the Masonic offence of non payment of dues, the Chapter shall forthwith inflict the penalty of expulsion or indefinite suspension, as it may deem proper; and in case the Chapter shall neglect or refuse to inflict such penalty, the Grand High Priest shall arrest the charter of the Chapter refusing to execute this edict.

"This decision should not be approved."

The Report of the Committee was adopted by the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania is regarded in some Grand Jurisdictions as unnecessarily austere, but it does not require that a Companion who has not paid his dues to his Chapter (by reason of poverty, perhaps) shall be visited by the extreme punishment of expulsion. We are ignorant of the scope of Edict XV.; nevertheless we think Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion Blanchard's views are correct.

This Jurisdiction has 127 active Chapters, *all* of which made returns, showing a net increase of membership during the year 1895, of 346, and a total membership at the end of the year of 12,677.

The labor of the Committee on Correspondence devolved upon Companions Wm. M. Bailey and Thomas G. Green.

The following words of the Grand High Priest of California are quoted by the Committee:

"There is one evil that, more than all others, hangs like a cloud on its good name: Intemperance, that curse of our day, is yet too common among the Craft. Not being fully in favor of radical measures, I can only suggest and recommend that we, one and all, live temperate lives, seeking rather by example than by force, to inculcate the cardinal virtue of temperance. Admonish in kindest manner possible, and by brotherly counsel, endeavor to correct the evil."

Under the division of labor among the Committee of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, the review of the Golden State does not fall to the lot of the writer; yet, being the representative of that Jurisdiction near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, he arrogates to himself the right to commend the sentiments expressed in the above extract.

It does the heart of a conservative Pennsylvania Royal Arch Mason good to note Companion Green's commendation, under Massachusetts, of Companion Bowen's condemnation of the introduction of the *profane* "behind a curtain" in Chapter work. Coming from a Jurisdiction where the work in

cipher is permitted, it is esteemed a move in the right direction. The remark under New York, that no Companion can legally open a Chapter unless the warrant is present, meets our approval. The warrant is the authority to open and hold a Chapter. In its absence the authority is wanting.

Companion Bailey, under Pennsylvania, expresses some surprise that our Grand Chapter holds Quarterly Communications, as well as an Annual Grand Communication. We follow the ancient custom. Assembling five times a year, the Companions have a much better opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other and being instructed in the ancient usages, customs and landmarks of the Craft, than if the meetings were held only annually. Another ancient custom we observe in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, is the installation of the Grand Officers on St. John's Day, December 27th, except when that falls on a Sunday; then on the succeeding day.

The remarks under Rhode Island, denying the right of a Grand High Priest to override the provisions of the by-laws of a Chapter, are endorsed. With us in Pennsylvania, by-laws must be approved by the Grand Chapter before they are operative. When so approved, the Grand High Priest cannot disregard them.

This paragraph, occurring under Wisconsin, we fraternally commend to our esteemed Companion Drummond of Maine:

> "We suppose the Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, though as yet we have not discovered any record of it in the minutes."

Within the space of one hundred and four pages, the Proceedings of forty-six Grand Jurisdictions are fraternally noted.

The Report, clearly printed, is embellished with a portrait of the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Charles D. Blanchard. The Annual Convocation for 1897 will be held in the city of Saginaw.

Lou B. Winsor, Reed City, M. E. Grand High Priest, and Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, continues as R. E. Grand Secretary.

MINNESOTA.

The Thirty-fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of this Jurisdiction was held in the city of St. Paul on the 13th and 14th days of October, A. D., 1896, A. I. 2426. The volume of Proceedings, handsomely printed and bound, is embellished with a portrait of Companion Charles D. Boyce, the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest, and one of Companion Nathan Kingsley, Grand High Priest in 1885.

The M. E. Grand High Priest, in a concise, business like address, recited his official acts, including visitations to Chapters, installation of officers, approval of By-laws, etc. He noted Pennsylvania's Centennial Celebration, and expressed regret that he could not be present. The territory of the Jurisdiction was divided by the Grand High Priest into ten districts, and he appointed a District Visitor for each.

Grand Secretary Companion Thomas Montgomery wrote the Report on Correspondence,—the seventh from his pen. The Proceedings of forty-six Grand Bodies were briefly reviewed, some of them covering two years. He quotes largely from the Indiana Report of 1895, wherein the benefits to the Craft resulting from "Fraternal Correspondence" are strongly set forth, and the true Mason is counselled to keep close to the landmarks, and warned against the dangerous approach of the self-regarded Masonic reformer. We cordially endorse the views promulgated by the Indiana Committee, commend the expression of them, and compliment Companion Montgomery for publishing so full an extract from the Report. Pennsylvania has persistently warned its sister Grand Jurisdictions against the introduction of innovations in Masonry, and we are gratified in having the active and valuable co-operation of Indiana.

Under Indiana, 1896, we regret to note in a quotation from the Grand High Priest's address, that the Companions often

indulge in levity during the exaltation of a Brother, and that he says "it seems almost impossible to eradicate this glaring evil." If the High Priest of a Chapter has so little control of the Companions as to be unable to restrain such un-Masonic practices, the warrant should be immediately sequestrated, or, to use an Indiana expression, it should be "arrested." A Lodge or Chapter hall, during the conferring of degrees, or the transaction of business, is no place for buffoonery. It is the duty of the presiding officer to stop such nonsense at once. A Masonic hall, during the session of a Lodge or Chapter, is as sacred as any religious sanctuary, and any one offending against the peace and dignity of the assembled body should be dealt with as summarily as a disturber of Divine worship.

Companion Montgomery has this to say about Indiana:

> "One Chapter was found using an Eastern ritual in violation of law, but was allowed to retain its charter under assurances that the adopted work and no other would be used hereafter. It was also learned that their own work had been printed and copy-righted, and was being sold, but the identity of the guilty party was not yet established."

Their own work printed and copy-righted! Why, of course, any Grand Jurisdiction that departs so far from the ancient landmark as to permit its esoteric work to be committed to cipher, may expect some leaky or mercenary vessel to give it away when sheckels are offered as an inducement. The Judases are not all dead. In Pennsylvania, no part of the esoteric work is permitted to be committed to writing, print or cipher. The use of any such aids would subject the offender to expulsion. Any cipher that man can devise can be deciphered; hence any Lodge, Chapter, Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter that, in violation of what in Pennsylvania we have been taught is an ancient landmark, commits its esoteric work to letters, figures or characters that can be deciphered or interpreted by the profane, is violating the first and cardinal

principle of Freemasonry. If we surrender the primal principal of secrecy, why continue the organization ?

Under Indian Territory, our Companion writes of the Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence of that Jurisdiction :

"He can see no impropriety in public installations, nor can we, if held only occasionally."

If there is no impropriety in holding public installations of Lodge, Chapter, Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter officers *occasionally*, where is the impropriety of holding them annually ?

Under Iowa our Companion writes :

"In the matter of Cryptic degrees, it was learned that twenty-seven Chapters had conferred them on 245 Companions.

"What do Chapter members know about Cryptic degrees ?"

It is to be regretted that aspiration for the "higher degrees" has, in some quarters, diverted attention from the beauties of Ancient Free Masonry.

In over seven pages the Committee gives a pretty full review of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for the year 1895. The opening paragraph of M. E. Grand High Priest Bartlett's address is quoted. The substance of the historical addresses delivered at the Centennial, November 23d, is mentioned. The Committee propounds queries as to the ceremonies observed at funerals and the laying of cornerstones in Pennsylvania, and further on, in the same paragraph, answers them satisfactorily.

We quote from this excellent Report :

"We asserted last year that the esoteric work in Pennsylvania and elsewhere throughout the world is now and always has been in some written or printed form, usually in cipher or otherwise disguised from the uninitiated.

Companion Africa, in reply, quotes their law to the effect that none such are permitted by the Grand Lodge, although admitting that some persons outside have printed in cipher what purports to be their work.

"Their law condemns even monitors, saying if they give false information they are useless, and if they give true they should not be printed. Is it to be supposed for an instant that in their 600 lodges the entire work and lectures of all the degrees, including what is commonly called the monitorial part, is imparted to candidates, and that such work has thus been taught without error or change during the past hundred years without some written standard? Why, we find forms for most everything in their lodge and chapter books, including prayers, charges to candidates, ceremonies at constituting lodges and chapters and installation of officers, even forms of dispensation permitting the forming of public processions "in proper masonic clothing" Now, we are not defending cipher or other rituals, especially for lodge use, but contend that the essential secrets are seldom, if ever, found in such, and that the principles and teachings of the degrees in general are printed in our monitors without any attempt at concealment, and may be read by anyone. Nor are we finding any fault because in Pennsylvania they refuse to install in public; that is their matter. But because it occasionally takes place in almost all other jurisdictions and always has, why should they be so determined to denounce the practice as un-Masonic?"

We reply that Pennsylvania work has never been lawfully committed to writing, printing or cipher. All instruction in the work is *oral*, whether imparted by the Grand Master, his District Deputies, the Schools of Instruction, or the Masters, officers or members of Lodges.

The Installation of a Lodge or Chapter officer is a solemn *Masonic* ceremony and, according to our laws and the Ancient Regulations as we have ever held them, it must be performed within a duly tyled Lodge room or Chapter hall.

Can you cite a well authenticated case of the public installation of the officers of a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter in the United States prior to the political anti-Masonic war of three score years ago?

Companion Montgomery noted, in a most fraternal spirit, a number of instances wherein the law and practice in our respective Grand Jurisdictions are materially different. We think that no two Grand Chapters are in precise agreement.

Our acknowledgments are due him for correcting his valuable statistical table by crediting our Grand Chapter with having been organized in 1795. It is true, as our Companion remarked, that the Grand Chapter was not wholly divorced from the Grand Lodge until 1824, nevertheless it has been an organized body since the earlier date.

By the table mentioned we are informed that the number of Chapters in North America is 2,671, with 205,993 members. The Grand Chapters have cash on hand and assets amounting to $247,845.35. In the latter class Pennsylvania ranks third, being preceded by California and Canada. Minnesota reports 58 Chapters, with 4,761 members, and a net increase in the latter of 145 over last year.

WILLIAM G. TENBROOK, Duluth, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
THOMAS MONTGOMERY, St. Paul, *R. E. Grand Secretary.*

MISSISSIPPI.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of this Jurisdiction held its Forty-eighth Annual Convention at Jackson, February 19th and 20th, 1896.

Companion Gus. J. Bahin, the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest, presented a brief, business like address. We quote therefrom these paragraphs:

"Through the mercies of God we are permitted to meet in this our Forty-eighth Annual Convocation, to take each other by the hand, and meet around the altar, and there offer to Almighty God our thanks and praises for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

Another year has passed with its many changes To some it has been one of temporal blessings and happiness; to others, one of disappointment, care and sorrow.

* * * * *

"God has also been very good to our land. He has blessed it with 'Peace, Health and Plenty.' To-day our people are in a better condition than they have been for years. May His blessing continue upon it."

He gave touching notice of the distinguished Companions of his own Jurisdiction who passed beyond during the preceding year, and made mention of the dead of many other Jurisdictions. Among the dispensations granted were seven or eight to ballot out of time, on petitions of Brethren for the Capitular Degrees. In Pennsylvania such dispensations could not be lawfully issued.

He said this concerning our Centennial :

"October 17th I received from M. E. Ezra S. Bartlett, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, a cordial invitation to attend the One Hundredth Anniversary of its existence, Saturday, November 23d, 1895. Not being able to attend, I sent the fraternal greeting of this Grand Chapter.

"I had also received a very kind letter and invitation from E. Companion Thomas Jacobs, our Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania."

Grand High Priest Bahin's fraternal letter was printed on page 30 of our last year's Proceedings.

Three new Chapters were warranted during the year. The Treasurer reported a balance of $978.27 in his hands. The Grand Chapter, according to the printed Proceedings, elects *all* of its officers.

In the printed Returns of Chapters the names of all the officers, Past High Priests and members are given for each Chapter, together with the names of the members who were admitted, exalted, dimitted, re-instated, died, suspended for non-payment of dues, or expelled.

The total number of Chapters is 47, with a membership of 1388.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, covering about seventy pages, and noting the Proceedings of forty-seven Grand Jurisdictions, was made by Comp. P. M. Savery, and is his sixteenth annual message.

Under Maine we learn from Comp. Savery that it is the practice in the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, and in many Subordinate Lodges and Chapters in that Jurisdiction, to make

nominations for officers. It is not permitted in Pennsylvania. Here all elections must be made by ballot. Tellers are appointed and boxes are prepared for each office to be voted for. Members deliver to the proper tellers tickets containing the names of the offices and of the Companions voted for, which are placed by the tellers in the proper boxes. When the poll is declared closed by the presiding officer, the tickets are counted by the tellers and the result announced by them. If, for a particular office, no Companion received a majority of all the votes cast, a second ballot must be taken, etc.

In reviewing Pennsylvania for 1894, he notes a number of items of general interest contained in the Proceedings. Among other things, he says of the writer:

"He seems to be misinformed on one point, for he states that this Grand Chapter elects all its officers, from High Priest to Sentinel. While that was the rule some twenty years ago, it is not the practice now, as no officer below Captain of Hosts, except Sentinel, is elective." If our esteemed Companion is correct there must be an error in the recording of the minutes of the Grand Chapter. On page 13 of the volume before us, it appears that near the close of the morning session, February 19th, "The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of Grand Officers." The result was announced for the several officers from Grand High Priest to Grand Captain of the Host. "Pending the ballot for Grand Lecturer, Grand Chapter was called off till 2.30 P. M." At the afternoon session "The election of Grand Officers was then resumed, with the result as follows:" Then appear the names of the Companions chosen respectively from Grand Lecturer to and including Grand Sentinel.

The review of Pennsylvania is thus fraternally concluded:

"This is the Centennial year of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. Forty-three years the senior of Mississippi. We reverence the aged and invoke the benediction of Israel's God upon them."

Twelve Past Grand High Priests survive, each serving but one year, save our respected Correspondent, who was honored with a re-election. The next Annual Communication will be held at Biloxi, on the second Wednesday in February, 1897.

JAMES T. HARRISON, Columbus, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
J. L. POWER, Jackson, *R. E. Grand Secretary.*

MISSOURI.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons met in Forty-ninth Annual Convocation at Springfield, April 23d, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426. No convocation was held in 1879, hence this meeting marked the Semi-Centennial of the Grand Chapter. M. E. Grand High Priest Comp. Alvin Haynie, in his address, said:

"We should be ever striving to practice the Principal Tenets, and exercise the Cardinal Virtues of our Order. And as we again surround our sacred altar, may there be enkindled in each of our hearts a flame of devotion to God, of love to each other, and of charity to all mankind."

He appointed Representatives near a number of other Grand Chapters in the usual fraternal manner.

Under decision No. 5, he ruled that:

"If, after unanimous ballot has been had, a member of the Chapter objects in open Chapter to the conferring of the Degrees, the fact that such objections are made (not the grounds of the objection), with the name of the objector, shall be entered of record. The High Priest shall then ascertain if such objections are permanent or only temporary, and if permanent shall declare the candidate rejected and order the fee returned, and in such cases the candidate stands in all respects as though he had been rejected."

This decision is precisely in accord with Pennsylvania Masonic law, save that the High Priest has no authority to inquire as to the character or extent of the objection. Our Masonic maxim is: "Unanimity before initiation, majority

afterward," and our Grand Chapter law says: "When an objection is made it must be entered on the minutes, and cannot be withdrawn. Such objection shall have the same force and effect as a rejection by ballot."

He says that he has:

"Discovered that the condition of the work, so far as the Ritual is concerned, is in a very deplorable condition throughout the State. In the cities it seems to be in better condition and well rendered, but in the country it is very bad indeed."

And the remedy:

"Several plans have been proposed. One is to put our work in cipher and supply each Chapter with a copy. Such a plan would meet opposition with some. There is a prejudice against ciphers, and yet in many of the best jurisdictions in this country it is used with success. In Illinois, quite a respectable jurisdiction and having many distinguished Capitular Masons, such a cipher has been in use more than a quarter of a century, during all of which time it has remained unchanged and given good satisfaction"

All such contrivances are violative of a fundamental principle of Free-Masonry. They are not tolerated in Pennsylvania, and the sooner our sister Jurisdictions banish them the better.

The M. E. Grand High Priest mentioned with commendable pride the Masonic Home, located at St. Louis. On referring to the report of the Board of Directors, it is found that the endowment fund amounts to $50,000. The receipts from various sources were $16,441.27, and expenditures $15,372.61. This charity is not restricted to aged Masons, but includes children and widows.

A novel circumstance occurred. At 3.30 P. M. an announcement was made that the Eastern Star visitors were at the outer door. The Grand Chapter was then called off, "when about twenty-five lady members of the Order of Eastern Star were escorted into the hall, and introduced by Companion Hanson. Sister Genevieve F. Wyatt, Grand Matron Order of Eastern

Star of this State, addressed the Grand Chapter at considerable length in a very *fraternal* manner." The Grand High Priest and other Companions responded. "The ladies then retired from the hall," and "The Grand Chapter then resumed labor."

The writer of this review is neither a crabbed old bachelor nor a woman-hater, but is just the opposite, and he acknowledges no superior in admiration and respect for the good and true of femininity, but insists that the Society of Freemasons was instituted by men and for men only, and that our sisters have no more right to obtrude themselves into our ancient organization than we, of the male persuasion, have to insist upon becoming members of the Sorosis, the Daughters of the Revolution, or other organizations originated and controlled by them.

The financial affairs of the Grand Chapter are managed with commendable economy. The total number of Chapters is 95, and members 6,681.

The Grand Chapter of this Jurisdiction seems to have been organized October 16th, 1846. February 28th, 1896, Grand High Priest Companion Alvin Haynie appointed a Committee to take steps and prepare a programme for the proper observance of the Semi-Centennial Year of the Organization of the Grand Chapter. The Committee made the necessary preliminary arrangements, and reported that they had printed 1,000 invitations and endeavored to mail one to every Representative of the Grand Chapter, and also to the Grand High Priests and Secretaries of other Grand Jurisdictions. The officers of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania seem to have been omitted from the list of invited Companions, as neither of the Grand Officers named by the Committee, nor such of the Past Grand High Priests as we chanced to meet, had any knowledge of the celebration.

The Semi-Centennial exercises began at 8 o'clock, P. M. As the labors of the Grand Chapter were closed at 7.15 o'clock P. M.

the subsequent proceedings seem to have been had in public meeting, which was properly opened with an invocation and closed with a benediction. Several interesting and instructive addresses were delivered, which we would be pleased to note in detail, but our limited space forbids.

In the volume before us, about one hundred and seventy pages are devoted to the Semi-Centennial Proceedings, the largest proportion containing biographical sketches of the Past Grand High Priests and Grand Secretaries, largely interspersed with portraits.

Pennsylvania extends most fraternal congratulations to Missouri on the successful rounding out of its first half century of Capitular Masonry.

The Report on Fraternal Correspondence is from the pen of Companion William H. Mayo, and is his seventeenth message.

Under Delaware he quotes a resolution of the Grand Chapter of that Jurisdiction authorizing Subordinate Chapters to exempt from dues all Companions who have been members of their Chapters for twenty-one years. His comments thereon, which we heartily endorse, are:

"To the above we dissent, and can see no good reason why a Companion who is able to pay should be exempted from dues. Unless the Chapter has a very strong surplus or sinking fund, it will be asking the Grand Chapter in a very few years to remit its dues."

The success of any organization, Masonic or otherwise, depends largely upon a proper administration of its finances. Too much attention cannot be given to this subject.

In one of Companion Mayo's reviews, we will not say where, he mentions an address on the "origin of the Order." He is exonerated from all blame in the use of such an expression, but we must enter our decided protest against the use of the word "Order" to designate any body of Symbolic or Capitular Free-Masons. Free-Masonry is a "Fraternity." "Order" is a word of modern coinage, borrowed from associations formed

during the present century and improperly attempted to be engrafted upon our Masonic vocabulary.

Under Massachusetts, Companion Mayo wrote:

"A Companion offered an amendment to the Constitution: 'As will permit a brother to make application for the Capitular Degree to any Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction to which he chooses.' Consider well before you adopt such an amendment. In our opinion it will bring discord into your now happy Masonic family."

In Pennsylvania neither a Lodge nor a Chapter has any defined territorial jurisdiction. A Brother may present a petition for the Capitular Degrees to any Chapter within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, but, if to one not nearest his place of residence, no action can be had on the petition until inquiry has been made of the Chapter nearest his place of residence if it has any objection, etc.

With the expansion of our larger cities, Brethren, members of Lodges meeting in a central Temple, often find it more pleasant or convenient to establish homes in rural districts. Their business associates are in the "city," and their Masonic ties are at the "Temple." Absent from their homes during the day, they learn little of their neighbors and their neighbors learn little of them. Our law permits such Brethren to petition any Chapter in the Jurisdiction, subject to the regulations above mentioned.

Tens of thousands of Master Masons, whose Lodges meet in the larger cities, dwell in homes from five to forty miles from their respective Temples. Our law is so flexible as to accommodate such cases, and at the same time protect the nearest Chapter.

On referring to the Report of Massachusetts for 1895, it is observed that while the proposed amendment to which Companion Mayo refers, and which he cautioned the Massachusetts Companions to consider well before they adopted it, contained this saving clause:

"By some such provision as is in force in the Grand Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, or to present such other amendment to accomplish that result * * *."

Under Minnesota, we are constrained to approve Companion Mayo's remarks about a Royal Arch Mason who has "resigned" his membership, and remains unaffiliated.

The reviewer quotes from the address of the Grand High Priest of our adjoining Grand Jurisdiction of New Jersey:

"The proper place for the conferring of Masonic degrees is in the Body nearest to the petitioner's residence, where he is best known, and where knowledge concerning his qualifications for these privileges can be most easily obtained."

We cordially assent to this proposition as amplified by the Constitution of our Grand Chapter, rendered necessary by urban or suburban life.

Under "Pennsylvania," Companion Mayo says:

"Centennial year, 1895, of this Grand Jurisdiction. One hundred years old. The volume before us is an unusually good specimen of the printer's and engraver's art, and contains 456 pages."

The Quarterly Communications of March, June, September and December are mentioned, and the Centennial Proceedings of November 23rd, 1895 are specifically noted, among which are the historical addresses, the speeches by prominent Companions from other States, the banquet, etc., etc.

As to the Report on Fraternal Correspondence, Companion Mayo says it is a most excellent one and that he regrets that he cannot more liberally extract therefrom.

Pennsylvania extends most fraternal greetings to Missouri, and hopes that the ties that bind the two Grand Jurisdictions together may strengthen as the years roll on. While we cannot in all things approve the methods of our sister Grand Chapter, there is nothing in which we seriously disagree, and we wish her God speed in the exemplification of Capitular Masonry.

Before closing this review we are impelled to write that the 171 pages of the Annual Report before us, devoted to the Proceedings of the Semi-Centennial of the Grand Chapter, including the instructive addresses delivered, and the interesting sketches of Past Grand Officers, will remain an instructive chapter of Capitular Masonry of this Jurisdiction well worthy of preservation.

Four of the Past Grand High Priests were natives of Pennsylvania, to-wit: Companions James Carr, of Franklin County; Thomas Elwood Garrett, of Chester County; Martin Collins, of Lancaster County, and Robert F. Stevenson, of Philadelphia.

ISAAC M. ABRAHAM, Harrisonville,
M. E. Grand High Priest,

WILLIAM H. MAYO, St. Louis,
R. E. Grand Secretary.

MONTANA.

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter was held in the city of Butte, September 15th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

The M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Joseph J. Hindson, delivered a concise, business-like and sensible address. The second paragraph reads:

"We breathe a prayer of thankfulness to the great I Am, that we are permitted to meet again. As we once more shake the hands of old friends, of whom we see little except at these annual gatherings, we cannot help feeling, that there are some pleasures in this life that go far toward compensating us for the troubles and trials which sooner or later will overtake each one while traveling through this vale of tears; and although our hearts cling to the memory of those who

Sleep the sleep that comes to all,

they go out more cordially and tenderly to those who are left of that noble band of pioneers to whom the word 'Mason' has a significance that we of a later day can never comprehend."

The deaths of the members of the Jurisdiction that occurred during the year are mentioned, as well as those of the Grand Officers of other Grand Chapters of which he had notice. Among the latter is "M. E. H. F. Gillette, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, died May 7th, 1896." There is an error here. We had no Past Grand High Priest bearing that name.

Domestic bereavements prevented the M. E. Grand High Priest from making as many visitations to Chapters as he would otherwise have made. He said:

"I am a firm believer in the advantages that accrue from frequent visitations of Grand Chapter Officers to Subordinate Chapters, and although a delinquent myself in this respect, I would urge those who come after me to exert themselves in this particular, assuring them that although they may impart some information, they themselves will gain a fund of experience that will repay them for the trouble."

The territory of Pennsylvania is too extensive and the number of Chapters too great for the Grand High Priest to undertake to visit *all* the Chapters. It has been the practice for a number of years to put in a week or more, with the Officers of the Grand Chapter, in visiting the Masonic districts in some portion of the Jurisdiction. A visitation is usually to a particular Chapter, but the officers of all the Chapters in the district visited are notified to be present. These visitations are usually largely attended by the Companions and the Deputies of the adjacent districts, and are promotive of uniformity of work and genuine fraternity.

The Grand High Priest, prefacing a commendable recommendation, said:

"'In looking over the Constitution, there are several amendments which, for the good of the Order, ought to be made.' We must protest against the use of the word 'Order.' Free-Masonry is a 'Fraternity.' 'Order' has no place in our vocabulary."

We regret to read this paragraph in the Grand High Priest's excellent address:

"The year just past has not been one calculated to farther the interests of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction. The continued low price of silver and all our other products, together with the uncertainty of a Presidential campaign, have probably deterred many a worthy Brother from knocking at the doors of our Chapter rooms, but let us hope that next November will so decide matters that neither we nor our children will ever be called upon to bear the anxieties and witness the misery and sorrow that has been sown broadcast over the greatest and grandest Nation on earth, since those in authority, in their mad greed for gold, commenced to overthrow laws that were framed by men wiser and more patriotic than they."

Free-Masonry has withstood the storms of centuries and the wreck of empires, by being a "law unto itself," but if it permits itself to become the adherent of any one of the many creeds of religion or parties in politics, its end will soon come. To the credit of Pennsylvania Capitular Masonry, we are proud to say, no question of either sectarianism in religion or partisanship in politics is permitted to be entertained for a single moment in either Subordinate or Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence was directed to prepare and present with its Annual Report, a digest of the approved decision rendered each year by other Grand Chapters. The number of Subordinate Chapters, the membership thereof, the number of exaltations and amount of dues paid, show a marked increase over the preceding year, which is, under existing financial conditions, highly creditable.

This Grand Chapter abolished the Grand Representative system in 1893.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence is the joint production of Companions Cornelius Hedges, and E. C. Day. It covers 77 pages and the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters were intelligently and fraternally reviewed. Under Florida we notice a dangerous innovation there in permitting a ballot at the same meeting at which a petition for the degrees is

presented, "at the discretion of the Chapter." We concur in the views of the Committee on nonaffiliation and dependent membership as expressed under Indiana. The review of Pennsylvania is from the pen of the Chairman of the Committee. The Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration are noted and the Committee writes:

"A general invitation was extended to the chief officers of all the Grand Chapters in the country, and we presume to our own, though there seems to have been no response. In explanation, it may be said that our Grand Officers were absent from home a good deal of the time, and hence it devolved upon us to express double regrets as to the failure to acknowledge and the inability to accept and attend. But we assure our Pennsylvania Companions that we are behind none in the satisfaction we feel at the successful completion of a century of growth and history, nor in the sincere hope that the future will be even more glorious than the past."

In penning the following, the Committee fell into error:

"There are also Mark Lodges, that, as we understand, are not under the control of the Grand Chapter. This difference is one of the reasons why Pennsylvania has not joined her sisters in the General Chapter, but is not the only one."

The constitution of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, adopted July 16th, 1824, gave to the Grand Chapter the right to regulate, superintend and control Chapters, Mark Masters' and Most Excellent Masters' Lodges and to grant warrants therefor. On reference to the Proceedings at the the Quarterly Communication held September 5th, 1895, it will be observed that the Grand Secretary reported three Mark Master Masons' Lodges, with a membership of 1,107.

The Committee gave the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania full and fraternal consideration, for which we tender due acknowledgment. Having, for considerably more than a century, practised the rites of Capitular Masonry in the manner we were instructed in by our fathers, we expect to follow in the "old way," yet we do not ask any of our sister

Grand Jurisdictions to adopt our methods. Our relations with all the Grand Jurisdictions of Capitular Masonry in the English-speaking world are most fraternal, and we hope to maintain them. The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, although not a subordinate of the General Grand Chapter, will not permit itself to be second to any Grand Chapter in fraternal courtesy.

Chairman Hedges, in writing the conclusion to the report of the Committee, utters the following strong expressions, doubtless as incentives to all the Grand Chapters that have not yet yielded adherence to the General Grand Chapter, to yield at once:

"As noticed throughout our report, we have expressed regret not only that some natural members of our family stood aloof, but many more express indifference to the General Grand Chapter. It would belie the results of experience and the intelligence of the age to hold that there was no longer any virtue in the principle that "in union there is strength." And the larger and more intimate the union, the greater the strength. The spirit described by Milton which inspired Satan to declare, "better to rule in hell than serve in heaven," is not Masonic, and those who can bear no restraint, who cannot respect others who differ, and treat them courteously in controversy, are not Master Masons in fact, whatever their name and rank. We oppose disintegration, which would reduce mankind to the individual absorbed in his little self We are wedded to the other principle that expands the individual to take in as much as possible beyond himself. It is something in Masonry as in the church. Many church members have more denominationalism and sectarianism than Christianity, and some are so contracted that they seem to think of nothing but the saving of their own little souls, which seem so small that they are hardly worth saving.

We belong to a great institution, a great country and age, and it wants big, brainy, broadminded men to meet the demand."

Whether or not Companion Hedges intends the world to understand that the Grand Chapters who have not given their allegiance to the General Grand Chapter would sooner "rule in hell than serve in heaven," is not quite clear, but that would seem to be a fair inference from his language. If we have made a mistake, we stand ready to apologize. If central-

ization is so important in Capitular Masonry, it must be more important in Symbolic Masonry. Then why not have a General Grand Lodge?

Montana was not noticed in our Report last year, because its Proceedings were not received.

RICHARD H. WEARING, Butte City, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
CORNELIUS HEDGES, Helena, *R. E. Grand Secretary.*

NEBRASKA.

In the city of Omaha on the 11th day of December, A. I. 2425, A. D. 1895, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, met in the Twenty-Ninth Annual Convocation. Thirty-two of its fifty-one constituents were represented. Companion Frank Bullard, M. E. Grand High Priest, presided.

A cordial address of welcome was delivered by Companion Perry A. Lyons, E. High Priest of Omaha Chapter, No. 1, to which the M. E. Grand High Priest made a fitting response.

We reproduce the following paragraphs from the Grand High Priest's address:

"Companions of the Royal Craft: By the blessings of Almighty God we are again permitted to assemble in annual convocation. Another page in our record is completed, and its joys and sorrows, its deeds of love and its stains of error, are before us. Before we turn it, would it not be well to pause and study its lessons, praying that the failures may become stepping stones for future successes, and the victories prophecies of still more noble achievements in the few remaining years of our sojourn in these fleshly tabernacles?

* * * * * * * * * *

"Our Grand Chapter, despite the uncertainties and stringencies of the times upon which we are fallen, makes year by year some growth in numbers, and some slight advancement in financial strength. That is, of course, a matter for congratulation. But, Companions, we of all men should realize that real strength lies neither in many votaries nor in the possession of much money, but rather in obligations, sacredly kept, and duties well performed. Could we purge our holy places of the profane, the

vulgar and the indifferent ones; could our fraternal band be reduced to the loyal few, who honestly seek to glorify God and ameliorate the condition of their less enlightened brethren and companions, then would our influence be widely extended, and our light shine in the dark places of the earth.

"Look well, I charge ye, who are called to preside in the councils of your companions, to the outer doors of your tabernacles. Scrutinize most closely the Masonic record of each brother who seeks to participate in your labor on the rebuilding of the mystic temple, and if he has failed to learn well, not the lectures, but the inner lessons of the Ancient Craft, shut fast the portal, and sternly bar his progress. We cannot afford to trust our work to the hands of those who are false to present obligations, and whose lambskins are stained with marks other than those received in truly fraternal, truly honest labor.

"See to it that our candidates are men of virtue, men of vigor, yea, men of passions, indeed, but who, as Entered Apprentices, have learned to subdue those passions, and whose lives are passed in acting upon the square, practising charity, and maintaining that secrecy which lets not the left hand know the good deeds of the right. Then will our temple be indeed glorious. Then may we be called to our fathers in peace."

He laments the fact that many Chapters are dormant. The Report of the Grand Treasurer shows a good balance of money on hand. The net gain in membership during the year was 51, which brought the total to 3042 on the 31st day of October, 1895. The Grand High Priest decided that there is no Masonic law which prevents any Chapter from filing letters of incorporation under the civil law. The Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the decisions of the Grand High Priest were referred, reported this decision technically correct, but earnestly recommended that the Subordinate Chapters should not become incorporated. To our surprise, a resolution was adopted directing the appointment of a committee to secure the incorporation of the "Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska." What is sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. In the matter of incorporation the Companions of Nebraska, and those of some other jurisdictions, are treading upon dangerous ground. Neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania is incorporated, and neither

Grand body will permit any of its subordinates to take out or act under a charter of incorporation. If the Companions of Nebraska, and of some other jurisdictions that might be named, who manifest a desire to put the organization under the control of the *civil* authorities of their respective Commonwealths or States, would familiarize themselves with the *civil, official or political* persecution to which the prominent Masons of Pennsylvania were subjected to three score years ago, they would see the policy always pursued by Pennsylvania in keeping aloof from the powers of the Commonwealth, and might profit by her example. Charters of incorporation granted under the civil law to Masonic organizations will, sooner or later, prove a curse to those accepting them. Popular excitements often, like meteorological changes, move in cycles. At present all secret social organizations enjoy comparative peace; but the fires of persecution are not extinguished; they are only smouldering and will burst out again when the public mind craves some new excitement. There are several elements, having no affinity for each other, ready to make common warfare on secret societies. The result will be the same as in all previous assaults; but as the contest wages and the screws of the legal inquisition are tightened, how can a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter, or a subordinate of either, that has accepted incorporation from any State or Commwealth, refuse to disclose its inner workings?

The printed returns of Chapters give the name and number of each Chapter, its location, date of creation, date of charter, date of regular convocations, a brief description of the design of the seal, and names of High Priest, King, Scribe, Secretary, and the names of the Past High Priests, with the year of their service respectively.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion Charles J. Phelps, for the Committee, and includes reviews of the Proceedings of forty-five Grand Chapters, four of them for two years. Under Arkansas we find the

Indiana rule: "A Companion, who, for any cause, may have been suspended or expelled by a Lodge of Master Masons and subsequently restored by the Lodge, is thereby restored to membership in his Chapter." * * * The Arkansas reviewer said "This is a good law, and we cannot understand how it could be otherwise." He also favored the rule requiring every petitioner for a new Lodge or Chapter, to file his "demit" with the petition for Lodge or Chapter. His views accord with the law and practice in Pennsylvania, excepting that a brother expelled or suspended from his Lodge of Master Masons for any other cause than for non-payment of dues, can have the expulsion or suspension removed only by the Grand Lodge. Then he is in good Masonic standing, and if he desires membership he must petition in the usual manner. Pennsylvania does not permit dual membership. It is required that every petition for a new Lodge or Chapter shall be accompanied by certificates from the Lodges or Chapters to which the petitioners last belonged, or other satisfactory evidence of their good Masonic standing, and that they are not members of any Lodge or Chapter. The word certificate here used would be interpreted "dimit" or "demit" in other Jurisdictions. Members do not "dimit" in Pennsylvania. If they desire to withdraw from membership they "resign," whereupon they are entitled to receive a certificate of withdrawal.

Under Connecticut it is noticed that the Grand High Priest of that Jurisdiction issued dispensations in three instances, to ballot and confer degrees without regard to time. Broad as the prerogatives of a Grand Master or Grand High Priest are in Pennsylvania, neither could lawfully issue such dispensations.

Companion Phelps, under Maryland, referring to the Report on Correspondence, 1894, by Companion Schultz, says:

"He unites with Pearson of Illinois in dubbing the principle of dependent membership 'novel ideas' from Nebraska. We think it would be equally reasonable, and certainly as sound in argument, to denominate any

custom peculiar to Royal Arch Masonry 'novel.' The doctrine is founded on a principle older than most of the law governing our chapters, the old regulation, that every brother should belong to some lodge."

With proper deference to our esteemed Companion of Maryland, we must sustain the position taken by Companion Phelps.

Maryland must look well to its laurels. Its Grand Chapter will celebrate its Centennial during the current year, yet Companion Phelps, who, we assume, was born in the land of "Steady Habits," insists "that in Connecticut, in the year 1797, was organized the first Sovereign Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, having an existence in North America." P. G. G. H. P. Alfred F. Chapman, elsewhere referred to, wrote that the Grand Chapter of Connecticut was organized May 17, 1798.

Under New Jersey, after referring to the address of the Grand High Priest and his allusion "to the historical capital city, for Freemasonry and patriotism stirred the breasts of our Revolutionary fathers in achieving the independence of our common country," the reviewer added: "It was at the battle of Trenton, fought in the mid-winter, that Washington achieved a brilliant victory, at a time when the American cause was surrounded by its most gloomy aspect,—a victory which restored confidence and fired anew the zeal which could brave the floating ice in the Delaware."

Under Pennsylvania, 1894, Companion Phelps gives extracts from the address of the retiring M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Tennis, and from the address of his successor, Companion Bartlett. Referring to the Report on Correspondence, he quotes our associate, Companion Henderson, and adds:

"He is unalterably opposed to the theory and practice which retains the Past Master's Degrees in the Chapters. Pennsylvania never had it in her system of Chapter Degrees, and urges with reason and force that it has no place in Capitular Masonry. He compiles opinion on the question, and his presentation of it is worthy the consideration of Royal Arch Masons. We think he is right in his contention.

"He justly condemns the practice in some Grand Jurisdictions of publishing the names of those suspended for non-payment of dues, and regards as even worse the publishing of the names of rejected applicants; and pertinently asks: 'What right have they to stigmatize in public those who, perhaps, are better men than they who black-balled them.'"

The reviewer, Companion Charles J. Phelps, of Schuyler, was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion William R Bowen, of Omaha, was re-elected R. E. Grand Secretary.

NEVADA.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons commenced its 23d Annual Grand Convocation at Masonic Hall, in Winnemucca, on Monday, the 8th day of June, A. I. 2426.

M. E. Trenmor Coffin, Grand High Priest, was in the Chair.

The Grand High Priest stated that nothing had occurred to disturb the even tenor of their way as Royal Arch Masons during the year. More degrees were conferred than during the preceding year. It was a year of unprecedented depression in all the industries in Nevada, but Royal Arch Masonry was not affected by it.

Companion Coffin had the following to say about the system of Grand Representatives:

"The system of Grand Representatives is a somewhat complicated and cumbrous one, and leads to some small jealousies and some fine distinctions of preference and prestige, and does not, so far as I can discover, bring the sisterhood of Grand Chapters or the Royal Companionship into any closer or more fraternal relationship. It greatly increases the work of the Grand Secretary, and so far as I can see results in but little if any substantial good.

"The Grand Representatives seem to be always appointed upon the suggestion or recommendation of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter within the Jurisdiction of which they are to reside, and seem to me to quite as much represent the Grand High Priest to whose Jurisdiction they are accredited, as they do the Grand Chapter which they are nominally appointed to represent"

We think something should be found for Grand Representatives to do, as we have said on former occasions. They

might write the Report on Correspondence of the Grand Chapter they represent. In Pennsylvania when a Grand Representative's commission is received it is read in the Grand Chapter, and on motion the Companion who is appointed is duly recognized as such, and then his name is printed in the Proceedings.

The Committee on the Grand High Priest's address considered this question, and reported as follows:

"We do not recommend the abolishing of the system of appointing Grand Representatives."

The Grand High Priest of Nevada does not have as much authority as he does in Pennsylvania. He decided but one question during the year, and it was one of jurisdiction. He reported it in his address saying that "the written decision which was also filed with the Grand Secretary is herewith submitted for your consideration, and for your ratification, modification or reversal." A Special Committee was appointed to consider his decision, on the recommendation of the "Committee on Address," and after wrestling with the subject for some time they reported a recommendation, which was adopted:

"That a proper committee be appointed to ascertain the facts in the case and report the same at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter."

In our Jurisdiction the decision of the Grand High Priest would settle it.

The death of Past Grand Priest Michael Nisbet was announced by the Grand Secretary, and his name appears on one of the memorial pages.

Companion Robert L. Fulton, the Grand Representative from Pennsylvania, was not present.

There is no Report of a Committee on Correspondence.

Companion Jason S. Burlingame, of Carson City, was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion C. N. Noteware, of the same place, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Seventy-seventh Annual Convocation of the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Hampshire was held in Freemasons Hall, in the city of Concord, on Tuesday, May 19th, 1896.

Companion William F. Knight, M. E. Grand High Priest, presided, and all the Grand Officers were present excepting one, and his place was filled by Companion Samuel Condon, Jr., the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Ten of the eleven Past Grand High Priests were present, but only fifteen of their twenty-four Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest in opening his address, said:

"This Grand Chapter meets to-day under the most favorable conditions. We bring you tidings of renewed interest in Capitular Masonry; notes of progress are seen and heard on every hand; the welfare of our Order is uppermost in the minds and hearts of tried and true men, who are doing something to place Chapter Masonry upon a higher plane and inspire our fellow-men to nobler and higher ways of life and living; and so it is with especial pleasure that I bid you welcome to this annual session, invite your attention to a review of the year that has passed, and ask you to form new plans for the future, taking such wise counsel together as will continue and promote the peace and harmony that everywhere abounds, remembering and grateful ever, in our hours of pleasure and rejoicing, to the Giver of all good gifts for the rich blessings of life and health, and that we are permitted to assemble together under such satisfactory and happy auspices.

"Chapter Masonry has its place in the world, and the means whereby it may lead in works that are its own and in ways of great usefulness.

"The work of Chapter Masonry must be studied to be understood and appreciated. Many candidates who seek admission to our Order are so ambitious to reach the top round of our Masonic ladder, where they expect to receive the consummation of their hopes and desires, that our lectures and ceremonies, however impressively and correctly rendered, fall on ears that fail to catch their meaning or appreciate their beauty."

In speaking of visitations to the Subordinate Chapters, the Grand High Priest has the following to say, and we give it in full as it will apply equally well to Chapters outside of New Hampshire as to those in that State:

"The visitations by the officers of this Grand Chapter to the Subordinate Chapters in our State have proved of much interest and profit. The work

has been rendered in a creditable and satisfactory manner. I am, however, informed that there are occasions indulged in by some of our Chapters, where the performance of our rites and ceremonies would show a different condition. There is nothing in Masonry that is not serious and solemn, and anything that would tend to convert our beautiful legends and impressive ceremonies into a game of sport, is a matter that should receive our serious attention and condemnation. Let it be brought home forcibly and fearlessly to all Royal Arch Masons that from this day, on no occasion, should we permit the principles, precepts and example of our Order to fall into disrepute. Our standard should be raised, not lowered; our ambition should ever be to reach the highest possible degree of perfection in our work, so that the sublimity and importance of these degrees should make the impression intended upon all candidates, and that our members should feel that the honors received have not been empty ones. A brother should be exalted, not depressed, in his advancement to the Royal Arch Degree. Let us not allow any candidate to feel a sense of injury, but let the scene we would present prove one of joy and benefit to all."

The Grand High Priest issued a dispensation for a new Chapter, and a warrant was granted for the same.

From the Secretary's Report we take the following extract:

Number of Chapters on roll	24
Number of Chapters making returns	24
Number of Chapters represented at Annual Convocation	15
Admitted to membership	229
Restored to membership	3
Dimitted	36
Died	69
Suspended from membership, N. P. D.	12
Suspended from rights of Masonry	1
Membership, 1895	3,221
Membership, 1896	3,335
Increase in membership	114
Exalted	211

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance in the Treasury of $2,386.32.

The last business transacted was the passage of resolution to appoint a committee to prepare a design and procure jewels for presentation to all the Past Grand High Priests at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

The Proceedings would make a small volume without the usual interesting Report of the Committee on Correspondence by Companion Albert S. Wait. It is just about one hundred pages, and forty-seven Grand Jurisdictions are reviewed in his usual able manner. We do not find Pennsylvania in the list of the States reviewed, and suppose our Proceedings did not reach Companion Wait in time for his report.

We want to print the conclusion of Companion Wait's Report, and will not go through it in detail, for we have already made our report on New Hampshire quite lengthy with the extracts from the Grand High Priest's address.

Here is the conclusion:

"As we conclude our work of the year we congratulate the Craft upon the prosperity and universal harmony prevailing throughout the world of Royal Arch Masonry, and the beneficent influence this branch of the institution is exerting upon the civilization of our age. Diversities characterize the laws and usages of the several Grand Capitular Jurisdictions to about the same extent as at the close of the preceding year, but from none of them has any want of harmony resulted or is likely to be produced; and all existing conditions seem to promise for the Craft a future of prosperity and usefulness equal to that of any former year of its history.

"One cause of congratulation, not to say exultation, has occurred during the year, in a decision of a court of last resort of California, which vindicates the right of Freemasonry to conduct its own affairs independently of the civil tribunals of the land. A Companion instituted a proceeding to restrain the Grand Chapter of California, its officers and members, and the officers and members of a Subordinate Chapter, from suspending or expelling him because of his connection with Cerneau Masonry. By the fraternal courtesy of Companion DAVIES, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of that Jurisdiction, we have been furnished with a copy of the decision of the court, which is an exhaustive discussion of the whole subject from the judicial view, and holds in the most unqualified manner that the court has no jurisdiction to interfere in such a case. Thus, for the present at least, it put at rest a question which has at times heretofore engaged the attention of the Craft, and there is just reason to believe that it will not soon rise again to trouble the fraternity."

Companion William Franklin Knight, of Laconia, was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion George Perley Cleaves, of Concord, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY.

The Fortieth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New Jersey was held in the rooms of Three Times Three Chapter, No. 5, Trenton, May 13th, 1896.

M. E. Companion Joseph E. Fulper, Grand High Priest, was in the Chair, and thirteen Past Grand High Priests were present. Thirty Chapters were represented, and among the list of Representatives of Grand Chapters present, we find the name of M. E. Companion Henry S. Haines, the Grand Representative for Pennsylvania.

They were favored with quite a number of distinguished visitors, as the following extract from the Proceedings show:

ADMISSION OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

"Most Excellent Companion George L. McCahan, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, was introduced and welcomed by Most Excellent Companion Henry S. Haines, on behalf of this Grand Chapter, in fitting words expressive of the loyal devotion of the Craft of New Jersey to the General Grand Chapter, and with the honors of Royal Arch Masonry.

"The response of the Most Excellent Companion was at considerable length and of great interest, gratifying to the Companions and dignifying to the Royal Craft. The occasion was a marked chapter in the history of New Jersey Masonry.

ADMISSION OF OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

"Companions—John M. Carter, Past Grand High Priest, of Maryland; George E. W. Stivers, Grand High Priest; John W. Palmer, Grand Captain of the Host; Adolph Muehsam, Grand Master of the First Vail, and George B. Edwards, Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of New York, were formally introduced and welcomed with the honors of Royal Arch Masonry.

"The occasion was eloquent with the fraternal sentiments invited by the presence of the distinguished craftsmen."

Later in the session the following notice also appears:

ADMISSION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

"Companion Josiah W. Ewan, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the Representatives of Grand Chapters near this Grand Body, were severally accorded recognition, with the Grand Honors of Royal Arch Masonry.

The Grand High Priest's address is a full resume of his acts during the past year, mostly matters of local interest.

He refers as follows to refusing a dispensation asked for:

"I received a request from the High Priest of Centennial Chapter, No. 34, asking for a dispensation to hold a special convocation on December 3d, in the rooms of Adelphic Chapter, No. 33, at Patterson, the meeting to be held conjointly with Cataract City Chapter, No. 10, and Adelphic, No. 33, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of Capitular Masonry. Three Chapters to meet at the same place and time, for the same object—a triumvirate. As the Constitution does not confer such powers on the Grand High Priest, it was refused."

He closes his address, saying:

"Companions, we have now reviewed the past with its sorrows, its joys, its hopes and encouragements Let us now turn to the future. Before us lies the valley of another year. It is covered with a dense mist which shrouds every object from our sight. We know not, we cannot know, what lies within that vale. It may hide our joy or sorrow, our loss or gain; but if we go forward in the path of duty we need fear no evil, and in due time shall enter into the Holy of Holies above, 'Entered, Passed, Accepted' May we each and all be exalted to that high position where the Grand High Priest shall mark us with a new name which is above every name, when we shall stand beneath the Royal Arch of the eternal glory of the great I Am"

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance in his hands of $1,948.64, and the Trustees have a balance to their credit in bank of $2,463.66.

An amendment to the Constitution to change the time of meeting from May to January was defeated.

The Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion George B. Edwards, Grand Secretary, who finds time to write a Report of over one hundred and twenty pages, of which five are devoted to Pennsylvania.

Companion Edwards was present at one of the Communications, the special one at which we celebrated our Centennial. He has the following to say in regard to it:

"The Committee on Finance, appointed 'to consider the advisability of celebrating the said One Hundredth Anniversary,' having this matter in charge from a previous date, reported in its favor. Invitations to participate were extended to every Grand Chapter known and recognized.

"The celebration was divided into three parts—reception, convocation and feast. The writer, who was present by honor of an invitation, was deeply impressed with the dignified procedure, worthy alike of the occasion and the Craft, of the time-honored Jurisdiction where the celebration was held.

"Addresses on the history of Royal Arch Masonry were compiled by four Companions, each taking a period of twenty-five years."

He makes extracts from the address of Companion Perkins. He comments as follows on one of the decisions of Companion Bartlett, who was then the Grand High Priest:

"The Companion following the prescribed path in cases of irregularity of procedure by not having acquired consent from the nearer Chapter, imposed the penalty prescribed for such violation and declared the action of the Chapter null and void.' That the declaration was in the full line of constitutional duty cannot be denied, but to the minds of many it is difficult to see how the Work of a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, performed under a charter, by adepts in the art, with the proper working tools, *is null and void* only because consent of the nearer Chapter to the candidate had been neglected to have been obtained. The knowledge imparted and received remains unchallenged as to accuracy and authenticity, the flaw being in the non-acquirement of the material by the conferring Body in accordance of regulatory requirement. The candidate, who had paid his money for the conferring of the degree upon him, received what had been imparted to him of Royal Arch Masonry from the rendition of an authorized Ritual, in the good faith of man and Mason, for no fault or disability on his part, is branded as a spurious Royal Arch Mason, possessed only of a deception, a delusion and a snare. When will a Daniel arise to a more righteous judgment, and stop this manifest exposure of the secrets of Masonry?"

There are a great many Royal Arch Masons who think as Companion Edwards does in regard to this matter.

Companion Henry G. Wagoner was elected Grand High Priest and Companion George B. Edwards was re-elected Grand Secretary.

The next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter will be held in the city of Trenton, on the first Wednesday after the second Tuesday in May, it being Wednesday, the twelfth day of May, 1897, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M.

NEW YORK.

The Ninety-ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York convened at Masonic Hall, in the city of Albany, commencing on Tuesday, February 4th, A. I. 2426, A. D. 1896, at eleven o'clock A. M.

It takes nearly four hundred and fifty pages to tell the story of the Grand Chapter of New York for 1896, and with the exception of the Proceedings of our own Grand Chapter (and they are larger than usual on account of our Centennial), it is the largest volume of Proceedings we have ever received from a Grand Chapter.

Steel portraits of the Grand High Priest, M. E. Marvin I. Greenwood, and R. E. Herman H. Russ, Grand Treasurer, adorn the volume.

When the Grand Chapter was opened every officer was present, nine Past Grand High Priests and one hundred and eighty-three Chapters were represented (every Chapter in the State but two).

We looked over the list of Grand Representatives to find the name of Companion Elmer A. Miller, the Representative from our own State, but he was not present.

In opening his address the Grand High Priest said:

"The weeks and months of another year have glided past us into the great ocean of eternity, bringing us, through the mercy of the Great I Am, to the Ninety ninth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter. And I can assure

you that it affords me very great pleasure to extend to you all a cordial and fraternal welcome.

"Already the dawning light of a new century begins to brighten our pathway, and as its glory grows upon us more and more, it casts the darkening veil of forgetfulness over many of the events of the century past. So great and so marvelous have been the changes and achievements of the past, and so rapidly have they crowded upon each other, that it has seemed almost like the touch of Alladin's lamp. And even the events within the lifetime of many here seems so far away in the past that it is hard to realize that they come within the century.

"And yet, with all the changes that have come to the world; with all our increased knowledge and opportunities for doing and learning, with all of the world's achievements in every walk in life, the needs and requirements of humanity remain just the same as when this Institution of ours was first set up on the hills of Judea. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth were the tenets of our profession then, and they remain the same now. Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance, and Justice were the virtues men were then taught upon their entrance into our fraternity the same as now. The legends of the Craft and their lessons to the seeker after light, which taught the same manliness, fortitude, patience under persecution, and fidelity to right against opposing evil, were exemplified then as now for the great end, that men's hearts might be prepared and fitted as living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. So Masonry goes on from age to age doing the same work, accomplishing the same ends, in the same quiet but effective way.

"And, Companions, from this summit to which we have attained, looking back upon the past, and forward to the future, we rejoice to-day that we have held fast to the strong guiding principles of Masonry as taught by the generations that have gone before, and thus strengthened will use our best endeavors to transmit the same unimpaired to those who shall come after us.

"I have no doubt that you will, during this Convocation, take the initial steps toward [making arrangements for such services, at the proper time, as shall fully emphasize our appreciation of the importance of the fact that we will then celebrate the *Centennial of our existence.*"

Seven pages of the Grand High Priest's address are devoted to "Necrology," in which he pays loving tributes to their deceased Companions, as well as those of other Jurisdictions.

Of one of the Companions we feel that we must copy what he said of him. He was well and favorably known, not only in New York, but among the Masons of the whole country, and everyone who knew him mourned his death.

"On August 7, 1895, the simple message was flashed across the State, 'John Hodge is dead.' It touched the heart of every Mason in the State of New York, as well as in many other jurisdictions. Although he was never a member of this Grand Chapter, yet his services in the Masonic vineyard were so many, so continuous and so effective, that every member, and every branch of our great Fraternity had felt its influence. John Hodge was born January 17, 1837. He was initiated into Masonry, September 30, 1861, in Niagara Lodge, No. 375, at Lockport. He was Master of that Lodge in 1881 and 1882. He was District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th District from 1882 to 1885 He was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge in June, 1885, and he was elected Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York in June, 1894. He was a member of Ames Chapter, No 88, and had been its Treasurer for sixteen years. He was a member of Bruce Council, No. 15, Royal and Select Masters, and had been its Thrice Illustrious Master. He received the orders of Knighthood in Genesee Commandery, No. 10, at Lockport, in 1869. In the Scottish Rite Bodies he was a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33d Degree, and was the Deputy for that Rite for the State of New York.

"Always and everywhere his time, his purse, and his best endeavors were at the service of the Craft, and of their great value many of us can speak from a personal knowledge.

"Of other jurisdictions many are mourning the loss of distinguished Companions whose names and fame were more than local, and whose removal affects the whole Fraternity."

The relation between their Grand Chapter and the rest of the Capitular World is harmonious, as the following extract shows:

"In all our relations with other Grand Bodies, the utmost harmony and good feeling exists. There has not been a shadow cast upon them in any respect."

The Masonic Hall Association of Albany invited the Grand High Priest to perform the ceremony of setting the keystone of the principal arch of their new hall or temple. The Grand High Priest declined, stating that the policy of Royal Arch Masons has always been to avoid public display and ostentatious ceremonies, and that there is nothing in the rituals contemplating a ceremony of that kind. He said when the building was completed, as Master Masons they would all gladly join with you in its dedication.

Of course the Grand High Priest was right in everything he said, but the idea we think is a beautiful one, and while the Chapter always does avoid display, it would be eminently proper, we think, to have a ritual of that kind prepared to be used only on occasions of setting the keystone of a Masonic hall or temple.

The Grand High Priest closed his address as follows:

"Now, Companions, in a few hours I shall return to you the jewel of my office, which you placed in my hands one year ago, and commit to my successor the exalted station of Grand High Priest of this Grand Empire State.

"Conscious of my inability to properly preside over and govern this Grand Body, yet I am conscious of having used my best endeavors to promote its varied interests, and to sustain its high character as a governing body of the Royal Craft, and at all times you have had, as you always will have while I live, the best and purest thoughts and purposes of my heart and life.

"I am grateful to you for favors almost beyond computation, for kindness unstinted, and for your loyal, hearty support and sympathy, and as I retire from official position to labor in the ranks, the welfare of this Grand Body, and of each individual member of it, shall always be mine, and I shall not cease to labor with and for you to guard the glorious heritage of the past, nor cease to hope for a more brilliant future."

The Report of the Grand Treasurer shows a balance on hand of $4,059.07, and the invested funds amount to $6,059.07.

The Report of the Grand Secretary is a very interesting one, and for the information of our Companions, we make extracts as follows:

"The Proceedings of the last Annual Convocation were published in the usual form, and distributed in the customary manner. The cost of printing the edition was $886.60; of their distribution $131.75, to which should be added the expense of engraving and printing the portrait of M. E. Frederick E. Barnes, Past Grand High Priest, published with the Proceedings by order of the Grand Chapter, amounting to $136.00, making a total of $1,154.35, which was paid by warrants drawn on the Grand Treasurer, in accordance with custom."

* * * * * *

Number exalted during the year		1,504
Number affiliated		120
Number restored		143
Total increase		1,767
Number dimitted	304	
Number suspended	568	
Number expelled	5	
Number died	289	
Total decrease		1,166
Net increase		601

* * * * * *

"Of the present number of Chapters (186) 54 report a membership of 50 or less; 68 from 50 to 100 members; 28 from 100 to 150; 17 from 150 to 200; 7 from 200 to 250; 2 from 250 to 300; 4 from 300 to 350; and 4 from 350 to 400. One Chapter has a membership of 436, and one of 672. The smallest number of members in any Chapter is 21.

"It is plainly evident, from an examination of the Chapter returns, upon which the conditions just recited are predicated, that the past year, notwithstanding the severe and long continued business depression prevailing here, as elsewhere throughout the world, was an exceedingly prosperous one for Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and that such prosperity favorably affected the Chapters throughout the State more generally than for several years past."

In the matter of suspension for non-payment of dues, the Grand Secretary has the following to say in his Report:

"The truth of the matter is that the Chapters are largely responsible for the prevalence of the evil referred to, in the fact that they do not insist upon the prompt payment of that which is their due at a stated time annually. The annual dues of any Masonic body are so small in amount that a simple demand or request for their payment, even from those whose personal interest has declined approximating the utmost limit of indifference, would be met with a ready and cheerful response, but when the dues are suffered to accumulate for a series of years, until they amount to a considerable sum,—and it is for this that the penalty of suspension is usually inflicted,– it is regarded by many as a burden from which, disregarding their duty, they gladly escape through the instrumentality of the prescribed penalties.

"To cure the evil of unaffiliation for the non-payment of dues, or to reduce it to its lowest possible limit, is the prompt collection of annual dues;

and, to the performance of this bounden duty, Chapters should assiduously employ every means within their power to effect so desirable a result."

It is the custom for the Grand Chaplain to deliver an address before the Grand Chapter, and R. E. and Rev. James Byron Murray at this Convocation spoke on "Masonry, a science adapted to the Age." His address is printed in full in the Proceedings and is worthy of a careful perusal.

The following resolutions were offered and referred to the Committee on Finance and Accounts and adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Grand Chapter be, and the same are hereby tendered to M.·. E.·. Marvin I. Greenwood, for his zealous and untiring labors in the interest of Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction; and, be it further

"*Resolved*, That a Committee of Three be appointed to select and present to M.·. E.·. Marvin I. Greenwood, a suitable testimonial, as an expression of the sense of the Grand Chapter in respect to his valuable service in its behalf.

"*Resolved*, In view of the long continued service of R.·. E.·. Christopher G. Fox, as Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter, which will at the close of his present term of office, have extended over a period of thirty years, that a Committee of Three be appointed to prepare a testimonial, for presentation to him at the next Annual Convocation, at an expense not to exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars."

R. E. George E. W. Stivers of New York was elected Grand High Priest, and R. E. Christopher G. Fox of Buffalo was re-elected Grand Secretary.

In closing the Grand Chapter, Grand High Priest Stivers made a few remarks, and the following advice is as applicable to Pennsylvania as it is to New York.

"I ask you, for the honor of our grand Institution, to perfect yourselves in the ritual, and give to the conferring of the degrees such intelligent and thorough supervision as will impress upon all, who seek promotion in Masonry at your hands, the excellence and enduring character of the lessons taught, and thus, in the accomplishment of the great aim we have in view, to hold them steadfast in our communion, and make them workers and builders to the glory of the S. A. O. T. U.

"Let us work together, impelled by a common purpose, and a laudable interest in the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry, to make the coming year even more promising for the future than the last, gathering for the work, upon our structure, only such material as will stand the test of the Grand Overseer's square, and may the God of our fathers watch over, keep and protect you and yours from all harm."

Companion George J. Gardner writes the Report of the Committee on Correspondence, and of course it is a good one; that everyone knows who has ever read one of his Reports. He pokes fun at Pennsylvania for recording the hour of closing in the minutes, and for using the term "Communication." He admits that he has "wiped his specs," and understands that it is the District Deputy Grand High Priests that had an appropriation of $750.00, and not the Deputy Grand High Priest as he had thought.

There are lots of good things in his Report under the various Jurisdictions, but as the other members of this Committee may comment on them under the States in which they occur, we are going to content ourselves in printing Companion Gardner's conclusion in full, and say good-bye to New York.

"Reader, our task is ended. 'The last sheet has gone to the printer, and the work is finished.' For seven times we have circumambulated the globe in search of treasures for you and our fellow Craftsmen—not treasures of silver and gold to lay up where 'thieves break through and steal,' but brilliant gems of Masonic literature of the first water and fresh from the hands of the lapidary.

"In our search for these hidden treasures, we have explored caverns where the coruscations have at times dazzled our mental vision, and have delved into the deepest mines where the richest lodes surround us on every side, even to bewilderment. From these regions we have brought up specimens of the skill of our co-laborers for your inspection, which, we trust, may prove of essential service to the Craft.

"The labor, though not performed with the triple working tools of the Royal Craft physically, has been no less severe a tax upon our mental energy, and, although at times we have been compelled to intrude upon that portion of time which we have been taught to believe should be devoted to refreshment and sleep, yet withal the task has been a pleasant one, because it was labor in a cause in which we have spent the better years of our life.

"We have endeavored to make our Report interesting, but primarily instructive. If occasionally we have introduced a witticism from the Reports of our *confreres*, or a pleasant *bon mot* or *jeu d' esprit* raked up from memory, it has been done to relieve the monotony of solid reading and the *ennui* of steady confinement.

"Companions, we close this Report with these moralizings. Who knows if we shall meet again, either personally or on the silent page? Life is uncertain—death sure. We are fast nearing the end of the decade beyond the 'three score and ten,' and can truly say with the immortal Bard of Avon :

> "Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty,
> For in my youth I never did apply
> Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood,
> Nor did not, with unbashful forehead, woo
> The means of weakness and debility ;
> Therefore, my age is as a lusty winter,
> Frosty, but kindly."

"But death is no respecter of persons. Age and sex are alike to him. The young may, the old must die, is a trite maxim. In this connection, we recall the last words of our lamented co-laborer, the late Companion Connor, of Tennessee : "The shadows are gathering about us, and friends are dearer than when we were young If we have unintentionally wounded one, we deeply regret it, and ask to be forgiven. We have watched the sowing and the reaping, and have gathered the aftermath with pleasure."

"Brethren of the Guild, for the many happy hours we have spent in perusing the brilliant thoughts, the eloquent passages, the earnest sympathetic expressions tendered in the hour of sorrow, we thank you. 'Some of you we know and love—others we have met through a series of years, only on the silent page, but we would know you all by the sight of the eye and the touch of the hand, so that we may be the better able to welcome you to the joys beyond the river, whither we are all hastening.' Many have crossed the border of that 'undiscovered country' since first we entered the reportorial circle, and yearly we miss from our band one after another of our co-laborers. How touching are the words of our poet-laureate, who has already preceded us to the spirit land :

> "There's a world where all are equal—we are hurrying toward it fast—
> We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past,
> We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,
> To try the blocks we offer by His own unerring square.
>
> "We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart ;
> There's a mansion—'tis already for each zealous, faithful heart,
> There's a mansion and a welcome and a multitude is there,
> Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square."

Au revoir.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The M. E. Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina, convened in its Forty-eighth Annual Grand Convocation, at the hall of Newbern Chapter, in the city of Newbern, May 12th, 1896, A. I. 2426, and opened in solemn form at 8 o'clock P. M., the acting Grand Chaplain leading the devotions.

Walter E. Storm, Grand High Priest, was in the chair, and fifteen Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest opened his address, as follows:

"Through the beneficence of our Supreme Ruler, we are again permitted to assemble at this the Forty-eighth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State. As your Grand High Priest, allow me to extend to each and every Companion, a most cordial and sincere welcome. We rekindle the fire upon our holy altar, around which we have so often grasped the kindly hand of fellowship, to not only advance the interests of Capitular Masonry in general, but also help and aid each other individually."

After speaking of the early days of Royal Arch Masonry in the nineteen States, he says:

"We of to-day are enjoying here the results of the patient toil and perseverance of those Craftmen, who long ago have rendered an account of their stewardship to the great I Am, and as they have fulfilled their duty towards us, so we, by work which will pass the Overseer's squares, should uprear our portion of the edifice without flaw or blemish, leaving for succeeding generations nothing to undo. Our path lies straight before us; whenever progress ends, decline invariable begins, and there is no greater sign of decay in an organization than want of zeal in upholding the fundamental principles upon which it is founded. Society is indeed a contract, in all art, in every virtue, and in all perfection; as its ends cannot be attained in many generations, it becomes a compact not only between those who are living, but between those who are dead, and those who are to be born. Think then, Companions, of the responsibilities which rest upon us. How careful our individual lives should be, that no slur can be cast upon the grand institution we represent. How vital the preservance of every land-mark, how dangerous the permission of the least infringement. May the great truths, the noble convictions, and the enthusiasm which inspired our Ancient Craftsmen, abide with us, and never die, until the earth is old, and the sun grows cold, and the books of the judgment day unfold."

We copy several of the decisions of the Grand High Priest.

Query—Can the petition of a clergyman be received without accompanying fee?

Held—No.

Query—Can a Master Mason moving into another Jurisdiction and establishing his residence therein, immediately petition a Chapter for degrees?

Held—He can.

Query—When a Companion is buried by his Chapter, should seven shovelfuls of earth be deposited upon the coffin by each Companion?

Held—The Royal Arch Masons have no burial ritual, therefore when a Companion is laid to rest, the ceremonies are performed by the Lodge in the usual manner. There appears no authority for casting the seven shovelfuls of earth.

There are many things in this world that we have never heard of; we are sure of this, and this last query is one of them. The "seven shovelfuls of earth" is entirely new, and if it is practiced in any Jurisdiction, we will be glad if we are informed of it.

The Grand High Priest issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Burnsville.

The invitations to our Centennial are acknowledged, as follows:

"I had the honor during my official year to receive the following invitations:

"From the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdictions thereunto belonging. 'The Most Excellent Grand High Priest sends fraternal greeting and a cordial invitation to attend its one hundredth anniversary, to be celebrated at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Saturday, November 25th, A. D. 1895. (Signed) Ezra S. Bartlett, G. H. P.'

"Also a second invitation from our Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania (P. H. P. James S. Barber), to attend the same celebration.

"To these kindly courtesies I was obliged to tender my regrets, coupled with best wishes for the success of their Centennial, and the advancement of Capitular Masonry in the Keystone State."

He closes his address in the following language:

"I take this opportunity of tendering my sincere thanks to the officers of this Grand Body for their kindly co-operation, and to the Craft at large for their uniform courtesy and consideration. The position of Grand High Priest is full of honor, but by no means a sinecure. He recognizes the fact that it is his duty to be executive and administrative, to adhere strictly to the law, and not to exercise his ingenuity to circumvent it, in order to comply with the desires of the petitioners. Above all, he is but human, so while reviewing his administration and noting the errors therein, let fall upon his shoulders the broad mantle of charity, and remember the old adage, 'Put yourself in his place.'

"As a Mark Master, it has been my care that square work only should be permitted in regulating the Craft.

"As a Past Master, that each petitioner should receive his just dues according to the interpretation of the law.

"As a Most Excellent Master, that nothing should dim the lustre of our temple, and as a Royal Arch Mason, to bridge securely the stream of doubt, to lessen the difficulties of the rough road of progress, and at last to guide the organization safely through the vicissitudes of the Capitular year into the haven of the forty-eighth Grand Convocation of this State.

"And now, Companions, my task is ended, the work you gave me to do is accomplished; the journey has been a pleasant one, we have added another mile-stone to the record, our feet have wandered in the pleasant places, and again have carried us under the shadow of the Cypress. With doubts and misgivings I present my work for your inspection; test it thoroughly and reject its imperfections.

"With tender hand and grateful heart, I surrender back to you the emblem of my authority, realizing that the proudest year of my Masonic life will soon be but a memory; yet it is the brightness, not the darkness, that we see when we look back; the road we traversed stretches far behind us; we feel not the sharp stones, we dwell but on the roses by the way-side, and the cruel briers to our distant eyes are but as gentle tendrils waving in the wind. God be thanked that it is so, that the ever-lengthening chain of memory has only pleasant links, and that the bitterness and sorrow of to-day are smiled at on the morrow; and when the twilight of life deepens, and the peaceful arms of sleep compel us to her will, may we awaken to the glories of the Eternal Temple."

In the Report of the Grand Secretary, we find among the commissions received for Grand Representatives, one for Companion H. C. Atkinson as Representative of our Grand

Chapter; but in the paragraph which says: "The following Grand Representatives were received with usual honors," we do not find the name of our Representative.

Further on in his Report the Grand Secretary pays his compliments to the Grand Representative system, and says:

"We have been called upon in but a few cases for a renewal of Grand Representatives, and was in hopes that the system was wearing itself out as we can see no special good growing out of it that cannot be fully met in another and we think better way. It is but seldom that Grand Representatives are present at Grand Convocations, and less seldom that reports are made to the Grand Bodies they are supposed to represent. One Grand Chapter (Tennessee) has abolished the system."

The Committee on Jurisprudence in commenting on his Report recommends "that there be no change in Grand Representatives."

He also says:

"In very many Grand Jurisdictions, I notice it is customary to publish a list of expelled and suspended Companions. It has not been so with us, but I do not see why if a Companion has been expelled from all the rights and benefits of the order, his name should not be published to the world. How otherwise should it be known to the order at large. I would like an expression of this Grand Body upon this point."

On this point the Committee recommend that "the present custom be continued, and that it is not for the best interest of Masonry to publish the names of our erring brothers."

The Companions and the ladies also, in the towns where the Grand Chapter of North Carolina holds their Convocations, usually entertain the visitors, and Newbern was no exception as the following extracts will show.

On motion of Companion Randolph, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Body be tendered to the ladies of Newbern for the flowers and plants with which the hall is decorated."

On motion of Companion McQueen, the thanks of the Grand Chapter be tendered to the Companions of Newbern Chapter, and citizens of Newbern, for courtesies extended this Grand Body. Adopted.

The Report on Correspondence consists of one hundred and thirteen pages, and is written by Companion James Southgate. As usual, Companion Southgate's Report is a good one, carefully prepared, and full of good things. We do not find Pennsylvania in it, for which we are very sorry, and I guess our volume did not reach him in time for review.

We must congratulate you, Companion Southgate, on the following two lines we found in the Proceedings of your Grand Chapter:

"On motion, it was ordered that the expenses of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be paid."

In Pennsylvania it is a labor of love and the Committee pay their own expenses when they go to the Grand Chapter.

The following is the conclusion to Companion Southgate's Report:

"We have, under many difficulties and much annoyance from sore eyes, completed the review of the Proceedings of forty-six Grand Bodies, which list contains all in this country except Pennsylvania, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, which have, up to the date of the closing of this Report, failed to put in an appearance.

"Old questions which had become threadbare are again being brought up and discussed by the younger members of the Guild, and, like the salt of the sea, must be kept in motion to purify and vitalize the water; so we must keep agitating the mooted points until we settle these by some tribunal of last resort, for which we have so long been contending. In closing this, our 14th Report, we are pleased to note general prosperity, peace and harmony, are everywhere prevailing, and the Capitular rite is making rapid strides in its onward march over the rough and rugged roads to ultimate success. With thanks to our Companion Reporters who have said kind words of our former efforts, which have been made without the hope of fee or reward, and best wishes for the success and happiness of all, we remain,

Companion Walter S. Liddell, of Charlotte, was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Horace H. Munson, of Wilmington, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

The forty-ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter will be held at Wilmington, May 11, 1897.

NORTH DAKOTA.

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of North Dakota, convened in the hall of Keystone Chapter, No. 5, at Fargo, commencing June 11th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Theodore F. Branch was the M. E. Grand High Priest, and all but three of his Grand Officers were present, and every one of the Chapters in the State were represented.

The Grand High Priest's address was a good one, and even if the Grand Chapter is not a large one, with presiding officers of the ability of the Grand High Priest and Secretary it will soon grow as large as it should for the population, and keep pace with the growth of their State.

The Grand High Priest began his address, as follows:

"Time, in its rapid flight, has brought us to the close of another year, and it becomes alike my privilege and my pleasure to welcome you to this, our Seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, in the beautiful city of 'Get There' (I should say Fargo) to review the work of the past year and devise plans for the future, to the end that Capitular Masonry may be progressive.

"I desire at this time on behalf of Ohio, Oregon and West Virginia, which States I have the great honor to represent, to extend to you the right hand of fellowship, as well as I can with only one right hand.

"So far as I have been able to learn from reading their Proceedings and otherwise, they are pretty well, thank you, and wish you the same. In looking over the Companions here assembled, while the most of us are the same familiar faces, we see some new ones, representing new Chapters, which is evidence that we have at least not gone backward.

"To you, new members, I would especially bid welcome, and hope and trust that this session will be one of pleasure to yourselves and profit to us

all, to the glory and prosperity of Capitular Masonry in general and this Grand Jurisdiction in particular; and now as we meet in fraternal greeting to perform the duties of the hour, let us ask the blessing of Him who does all things well, and invoke His protection, not only for ourselves, but for those who are dearest to us on earth."

Under the head of Grand Representatives, the Grand High Priest who favors the system, has the following to say:

"Under this head I desire to say, that I believe the system of exchanging representatives is a good one, but that it is not duly appreciated by many of those receiving commissions. I have known cases where Proceedings have been received and never opened, and I presume they never even acknowledged their receipt. Nothing is more interesting and valuable to a student of Chapter Masonry than reading the Proceedings and Report on Correspondence of other Grand Jurisdictions. If they don't send them to you, write for them, and then read them and learn what is going on outside of your own little burg. I notice that some of the Companions represent several States, myself among the number, representing Ohio, Oregon and West Virginia, which is two too many. I believe we have enough worthy Companions, that if the honors were properly apportioned no Companion would have more than one commission, and I herewith give notice that I will tender my resignation as Representative of Oregon and West Virginia. I stick to Ohio because I was born there, and spent some thirty-three brief summers of the early part of my existence in that good old State. I received the Chapter Degrees in Thatcher No. 101 at Cleveland, and have naturally taken more interest in what was going on there than anywhere else."

Now possibly some Companion out in North Dakota will find something for Grand Representatives to do besides seeing their name printed in the Proceedings.

The Grand High Priest said he received a courteous invitation to our Centennial, "but was unable to accept, which I very much regret."

He reported that two new Chapters had been constituted.

Everything is harmonious in North Dakota as the following extract will show, and we trust the Committee on Grievance had a good time:

"So far as I have been able to learn, peace and harmony prevail throughout the entire Jurisdiction, so that the Committee on Grievance are at liberty to go out and play."

He delivers himself in a sensible manner on officers doing their work:

"As to the first, while I admit that a fine ritualist is not all that goes to make up a first-class presiding officer, I think it is a very essential ingredient. You all know what your sensations are at seeing our beautiful and impressive work done in an imperfect and slovenly manner. No one thing will cause a Chapter to go down grade as quick, and when it once commences to go down everything appears to be greased for the occasion. I don't mean to insinuate that we have any such officers, present company always excepted, but it does no harm to think of these things when it comes time for election. I believe it should be an unwritten law that no Companion be advanced to the East until he had shown his Chapter, by actual work, that he is qualified; of course the High Priest should be courteous enough to give those next in line an opportunity. I received the most of my Masonic education in Ohio, and there it was an unheard of proceeding to elect one to the East who had not proved by actual work that he was competent."

The Grand High Priest closes his address as follows:

"And now, Companions, before this session is ended I will have stepped down from the high pinnacle to which you have elevated me. When you elected me to this office one year ago I accepted it with the fear that I would be weighed and found wanting, but I resolved that I would conduct the affairs of the office to the best of my ability; if I have failed and made mistakes, either of commission or omission, I trust you will believe they were errors of the head and not of the heart; if my efforts have been attended with any measure of success I gladly share them with our Grand Secretary, Companion Thompson, who has been ever ready and willing to aid and advise me at all times. I trust that his labors will not go unrewarded. And now I thank you, Companions, for the high honors you have bestowed upon me, unmerited though they be, and I assure you that I shall ever remember this as the red-letter day of my existence and I trust that you will give to my successor the same confidence and support that you have extended to me. May happiness and prosperity attend you and yours, and may the God of our Fathers be with you for evermore."

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance on hand of $986.80.

The Secretary is busily engaged in getting up a registry of the Grand Chapter membership. He has adopted the card system of keeping the record required of each member.

Companion Leonard A. Rose, the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, was present.

Companion Albert B. Herrick was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Frank J. Thompson was re-elected Grand Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia (with jurisdiction over the Provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland), was held in Freemason's Hall, Sydney, C. B., on Tuesday, the 11th of June, A. D. 1895, A. I. 2425, at 10 o'clock A. M.

M. E. Companion William B. Alley, Grand High Priest, was in the chair.

He welcomed the Companions, as follows:

"I can assure you that we are pleased to meet you all in this far Eastern section of our Jurisdiction, in the flourishing town of Sydney, C. B., and bid you a most fraternal and kindly welcome to this the Twenty-sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and Newfoundland.

"It is pleasing to see so many present, especially in these times of commercial depression, when every good citizen must necessarily be solicitous about his business, and proves conclusively that you have the cause of Royal Arch Masonry well at heart; and I need scarcely remind you that if in our present assemblage we invoke the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on our labors, our cause being just and right, which it undoubtedly is, He will be in our midst and bless us abundantly.

"Our last Annual Grand Convocation in the town of New Glasgow was a good one, and I think we may all look back with pleasure on our Proceedings while there. Our brethren of the Blue and our new and active Companions, resident in that town, did all in their power to make our sojourn amongst them pleasant and profitable and succeeded admirably."

The Grand High Priest's address was a good one, and it was his third year in the office. There was nothing special in the

address of interest to Companions outside of Nova Scotia, but it was only of local interest.

He concluded it by saying:

"There are other matters to which I would gladly allude, *i. e.*, the adoption of more decided measures in the collection of dues by Subordinate Chapters, but my address is possibly now as extensive as it should be, and I will therefore close by thanking this Grand Body for the confidence shown in electing me three times to the position of chief officer, and also convey to the Companions throughout the Jurisdiction, my sincere thanks for the uniform kindness and consideration they have always extended towards me in the discharge of my duties; and in surrendering my seal of office to my successor, who ever he may be, I promise that my interests in the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry will not end here, but that I will continue to do my best to promote the good cause while I have health and strength to do so."

We give a summary of their returns for the past year:

Number of Members last return,	665
Exalted,	38
Affiliated,	4
Suspended,	2
Demitted,	14
Missing,	11
Died,	7
Present Membership,	673

They joined with the Grand Lodge in attending Divine Service, as the following action shows:

"Ex. Companion Hon. William Ross, R. W. Grand Secretary, on behalf of the M. W. Master Mason of Nova Scotia, extended an invitation to Grand Chapter to walk in procession with Grand Lodge on Wednesday morning and attend Divine Service.

"On motion of M. E. Companion J. W. Ruhland, seconded by R. E. Companion M. G. Marshall, it was

"*Resolved*, That the invitation be accepted."

There is no Report on Correspondence.

M. E. Companion Simon W. Crabbe was elected Grand High Priest, and R. E. Companion Alexander Ross was re-elected Grand Secretary.

OHIO.

The Eightieth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, convened in Odd Fellows' Hall, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened in due form by M. E. Grand High Priest Jacob H. Bromwell.

The Grand Officers were all present, and seven Past Grand High Priests.

Our Representative, Companion James W. Iredell, Jr., was not present this year.

Companion Bromwell, the Grand High Priest, began his address as follows:

"We have once more convened in Annual Convocation of this Grand Body for the purpose of deliberating upon the condition of our Order; of devising further means for its advancement and prosperity, and of enacting such legislation as will promote harmony aud true fraternity among the thousands of Royal Arch Masons, of whom we are the Representatives, and who have entrusted their interests to our hands. We shall, no doubt, be guided in our deliberations on this occasion by that calm and enlightened judgment which has heretofore controlled the actions of this Grand Body, and which will produce results which will be for the best interests of our beloved Order

"I congratulate you upon the fact that in spite of the lowering clouds which have hung over and darkened the prosperity of the country at large, the Chapters of our State and their members have enjoyed a fair share of prosperity, and that there has been no diminution either in the membership of our constituent bodies, nor in the interest which we have taken in the dissemination of our principles. I congratulate you, also, upon the fact that so many of those whose faces are familiar in this Grand Body have been passed over by the Great Destroyer, and are permitted once more to gather together in the fraternal union which comes with our Annual Convocation.

"I am pleased to say that neither any of our present Grand Officers nor of our Past Grand Officers, who were living at our last Annual Convocation, have been called away from us, and that with few exceptions our Subordinate Chapters have been equally fortunate in escaping the loss of those whom they had selected to administer their affairs during the current year."

He refers to the death of Companion Michael Nisbet in his address.

He has the following to say of his visit to our Centennial:

"In response to an invitation from M.·. Ex.·. Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, I had the pleasure on the 23d of November last, of attending the Centennial Anniversary of the Organization of that Grand Chapter. To give full details of the interesting ceremonies in connection therewith would be impossible within the compass of this Report. I feel it due to the Companions of our sister Grand Chapter to say that it was the most elaborate and interesting entertainment in which it had ever been my privilege to participate. I had the pleasure of being the guest of Companion Irving P. Wanger, the Grand Representative of this Grand Chapter, near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, who also enjoys the high honor of being the Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, and is the present Representative of his district in the Congress of the United States. For the entertainment givenme by him at his be autiful home in Norristown, I am under special obligatibns to him.

"The exercises consisted largely of historical addresses upon various epochs of the existence of the Grand Chapter, interspersed with orchestral and vocal music, and were concluded with a most elaborate banquet, made the more interesting by responses full of eloquence and feeling to the various toasts that were proposed."

He then gives a list of the prominent Masons who were present, and modestly states the part he took in the ceremonies, as follows:

"I was called upon to respond on behalf of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, and took pleasure in extending your greetings and congratulations, and extending an invitation to the distinguished company present to participate with us in a similar anniversary occasion, which will take place at the close of the first century of our existence as a Grand Chapter."

Why, Companion Bromwell, you don't tell the half of it. You belonged to the part of the exercises that you spoke of in the former paragraph about it being made "more interesting by responses full of eloquence," etc., and the applause you received when you sat down was the evidence that told it.

The following extract is in regard to the Ohio Masonic Home:

"The Ohio Masonic Home was formally dedicated by the various Grand Bodies of the State and a large concourse of attending Masons, in the city of Springfield, during the session of the Grand Lodge in that city, on the 23rd day of October last. The Grand Chapter was represented on that occasion by its full corps of officers and a large number of visiting Royal Arch Masons. When it is remembered that this great charity had its origin in the action of the Grand Chapter recommending the appointment of committees of conference for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a home, the completion and dedication of the structure, which was the outcome of that action, was a matter of sincere congratulation to every Royal Arch Mason present. This Grand Body has been one of the most earnest and active contributors to the funds which were required, and has made permanent provision for an annual contribution which devotes something over $3,000 each year from the Grand Chapter treasury for its maintenance. Your Representative on the Board of Trustees will, no doubt, submit to you a full and complete report of that Board for the year just ended.

We give several of High Priest Bromwell's decisions, and have no comments to make excepting on the first, and if a Master Mason like the one described in the first decision wants to become a Royal Arch Mason he had better not try it in Pennsylvania:

"3. A A Master Mason, one of whose limbs has been partly amputated, and who uses an artificial limb perfectly, is not disqualified to petition and receive the Chapter degrees.

"5. A. The fact that a Master Mason has not passed an examination in the Master Mason's lecture in open Lodge does not disqualify him from petitioning a Chapter to receive the Mark Degree.

"7. Q. Does written objection to a candidate being advanced die when the objecting Companion is suspended for non-payment of dues?

"A. Written objections to the advancement of a Brother to any of the Chapter degrees becomes inoperative during the time of the suspension of the Companion who had filed the objections, whether such suspension is due to non-payment of dues or any other cause."

His address closed as follows:

"This, my dear Companions, completes the labors of the past year, which has been one of great pleasure to me by reason of the cordial support which I have received at the hands of my associate officers and the other

members of this Grand Body. There is but one regret which I have to express in connection with it, and that is, that the multitudinous cares of a very busy life have prevented my giving that close and minute attention to the details of the work that should have been given to insure the highest measure of prosperity and success to the Chapters of our State. I have endeavored, so far as it was in my power, to fulfill the promise which I made a year ago, when you elected me to this high office, and I shall surrender to my successor the gavel of authority, with the full determination to render such further service to Chapter Masonry in this State, as a permanent member of this Grand Body, as will repay some the obligation which has been placed upon me by the bestowal of so distinguished an honor at your hands."

We take the following table of statistics from the Report of the Grand Secretary:

No. of chartered Chapters	146
No. of Chapters U. D.	4
	150
The charters of No. 122 and No. 137 surrendered	2
Present number of Chapters	148

MEMBERSHIP.

No. of members July 31, 1895 (See Exhibit A)		13,764
" " omitted last year		17
" " exalted "		1,073
" " admitted "		98
" " reinstated "		184
Making a total of		15,136
From which deduct—		
No of members withdrawn	148	
" " died	206	
" " suspended for non-payment of dues	448	
" " " " un-Masonic conduct	3	
" " expelled	11	
" " Coolville Chapter No. 137 (charter surrendered)	19	
" " reported by mistake last year	3	
" " No. 125, no report	33	
		871
Membership July 31, 1896		14,265
Being a net increase during the year of		504

During the meeting the Grand High Priest, on behalf of the Grand Chapter, presented each of the Past Grand High Priests with a Past Grand High Priest's Jewel.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Grand Chapter:

"*Resolved*, That each Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter be requested to furnish the Grand Secretary, at the earliest possible moment, with a photograph, imperial cabinet size of himself, and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to procure a suitable album in which to preserve the photographs, and deposit the same in the library of the Ohio Masonic Home.

"*Resolved*, That Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter are authorized to have joint occupancy of halls with all bodies with which the Grand Lodge permits its subordinates to hold such occupancy."

The Proceedings contain an abstract of the returns of the Subordinate Chapters, and the names of the Companions suspended and expelled are printed.

Excellent Companion Rev. Thomas J. Melish, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter, was present and made the Report of the Committee on Necrology, on October 8th, and in the appendix we find the following page, dedicated to this same Companion. Truly "in the midst of life we are in death."

IN MEMORIAM.

This page is dedicated to the memory of REV. THOMAS JEFFERSON MELISH, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, and Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Ohio, who died very suddenly at Cincinnati, Ohio, on Wednesday, November 11, 1896, at 8 P. M.

"The steps of a good man are ordered of God."

"There is no death! the stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore!
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown,
They shine forevermore.

* * * * * *

"Born into that undying life.
They leave us but to come again;
With joy we welcome them—the same,
Except in sin and pain.

"And ever near us, though unseen,
Those dear, immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is life; there are no dead"

There is a Report on Foreign Correspondence of over one hundred and fifty pages, and it is written as usual by Companion S. Stacker Williams, and it goes without saying that it is a good Report.

We do not have the time to give to Companion Williams' Report that we would like, and intend to write of only one question, and that is the "Ancient York Masons." Companion Williams says in course of his remarks, "we propose to show, on authority which we believe they will not dispute, that by some means, whether accidental or not we do not undertake to say, an incorrect title has sometimes been used in their warrants and records," etc., etc.

Companion Africa said, "the records of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and its ancient Subordinate Lodges furnish abundant evidence to the contrary." There is no doubt of it. They do furnish "abundant evidence" of the use of the term, "Ancient York Masons." We shall think what Companion Africa said was right.

Companion George D. McBride was elected Grand High Priest and Companion Charles C. Kiefer re-elected Grand Secretary.

The Eighty-first Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter will convene in the city of Springfield, Wednesday, September 29th, 1897.

OREGON.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Oregon, was opened in ample form at Masonic Temple, city of Portland, on Monday, June 8th, A. D., 1896.

John Milton Hodson, the Grand High Priest, was in the Chair, with every one of his Grand Officers present and a half dozen Past Grand High Priests, and all the Subordinate Chapters represented but two.

Our Grand Representative, Companion J. R. Bayley, the oldest Past Grand High Priest, was present, and the History of the Grand Chapter that he wrote in 1879 was, pursuant to a resolution, published again in the Proceedings this year.

The Proceedings are a marvel of typographical beauty, and there are no Proceedings published by any Grand Chapter that we have ever seen that surpasses them.

They are embellished this year by two engravings, the Grand High Priest, John Milton Hodson, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and the Grand Secretary, James F. Robinson, Past Grand High Priest.

In his address he welcomed the Companions to the Thirty-sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and then said:

"It is said that in the material world no want exists, but somewhere lies the answer, that there is no ill without a cure; nutrition follows waste and builds again the ever changing forms into new and vigorous youth; that only ignorance of the perfect application of natural laws hinders us from reaching forth and partaking of the tree of life and thereby living forever. In the world of heart and mind there is a want, a void, a wish for higher life, a constant desire for a closer companionship, a more binding fellowship between ourselves, and in the sum of human culture and happiness mingles all those elements of aspiration, hope, love, fraternity. These desires are the foundation stones upon which the ancient fathers reared the superstructure of Masonry, and wheresoever her shrines have been erected, there has been the thought of reverence and duty towards the Fathers of the Universe, and the binding ties drawing us in closer union. And who can

measure the sum of human happiness thereby garnered in the past, or calculate the flood of joys flowing from the influence of such a fraternity whose every lesson teaches of the equal nearness of every created being to the love and care of the Great Mysterious Power known and worshipped in some form in all the world, as also of our common brotherhood and duties toward each other? Upon these lines lie our duty for the day, and to the development of the future we commit the completion of our mystic temple 'that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.'"

Everything has been harmonious and fairly prosperous the past year in Oregon, as the following extract shows:

"I am pleased to say that the most cordial relations have been maintained between the Grand Chapter of Oregon and Sister Grand Jurisdictions. Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions that have prevailed throughout the State during the year, I am very pleased to say that official reports show there has been a general advance in capitular work and our membership will show a gain. While it is not so large as in many years of general prosperity, I consider it a cause for congratulation that we have been able to fully maintain our standing and exhibit a gain rather than a loss. I trust that more favorable circumstances may soon develop and that Royal Arch Masonry will be fully prepared to reap the benefits of renewed prosperity.

"As the best proof of the peace and harmony that prevails, I may say that not an appeal has been filed nor a contention developed requiring official action or decision, and the very few questions asked were readily answered by reference to the laws and usages of the fraternity, all of which speaks in the most flattering terms of the ability of the Officers and Companions of the Subordinate Chapters."

Under Grand Representatives he says the following about a system that there is a great deal of difference about:

"My experience in managing our diplomatic relations has not had a tendency to increase my regard for the system of interchange of representatives between Grand Chapters, but on the contrary, has confirmed the opinion that it is not only useless, but liable to cause ill feeling among Companions where no strife or envy should exist and nothing warmer than the emulation as to who can best work and best agree should ever be engendered.

"At the urgent request of the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary of New York, I appointed Companion W. H. Sutton as Representative of the Grand Chapter of Oregon near the Grand Chapter of New York. I wrote Companion P. M. W. Verhoven, our former Representative, who was commissioned in 1882, expressing our fraternal regards and explaining the situ-

ation, receiving from him a most courteous reply. I trust that all parties are now satisfied, as the Companion appointed is in every way worthy. I feel that in such matters we are under obligation to conform to the wishes of the court to which we desire to send accredited representatives.

Two warrants were granted for new Chapters.

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance of $2,536.90.

We present the following statistics from the Report of the Grand Secretary:

Number of	Chartered Chapters in the Jurisdiction, . . .	25
"	U. D. " " " . . .	2
"	Chapters making returns, ...	27
"	Members last year, ...	1,238
"	Members at present, ...	1,290
"	Exaltations during the year, ...	90
"	Chapters reporting gains during the year, .	11
"	Chapters reporting losses during the year, .	9

Our Representative, Companion James R. Bayley, has a warm place in the hearts of his Companions, as the following resolutions which were adopted will show:

"Through the goodness of the Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe, we are permitted to exchange fraternal greetings with the only living representative of those who first planted the ensign of Capitular Masonry on the northwest coast, our venerable and highly esteemed Companion, Past Grand High Priest James R. Bayley, who, though advanced in years, is still in the enjoyment of good health and manifesting the same zeal for our beloved Order as characterized his younger days. Therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That we humbly pray Almighty God that his life may be spared to us yet many years that we may, by his wise counsels, be better enabled to exemplify to our Companions and to the world the sublime teachings of Royal Arch Masonry."

A resolution was passed during the meeting that any Royal Arch Mason in good standing who had been a contributing member to any Subordinate Chapter for twenty years or more, may, at the option of the particular Chapter of which he is then a member, be relieved from all Chapter dues, and that

this Grand Chapter relieve the Subordiñate Chapter from the payment of Grand Chapter dues on such member.

We are of the opinion that this action is an unwise one, and as the years rolls round the list will increase with remarkable rapidity, and that sometime something will have to be done for the relief of the Grand Chapter and Subordinate Chapters also. In the Chapter to which the writer belongs nearly half of the 275 members have belonged over twenty years.

The Report on Correspondence comprises over one hundred and twenty-five pages, and is written by Companion John M. Hodson.

Reading it over shows two things very plainly: First, that it was written by one who is a bright Capitular Mason, and second, that care was taken in its preparation. Oregon was another place that the Proceedings of our State failed to reach, so Pennsylvania is not mentioned in his Report. Now I feel sure it was sent, as Companion Hodson was sure that their Proceedings were sent to us two years ago, when they did not reach the member of the Committee who was to review them.

We will give Companion Hodson's conclusion, and then say good-bye to Oregon:

"Again we have concluded our researches, bringing up for your inspection such specimens as have seemed worthy of inspection. A summary of the results indicate the prosperity of the Royal Craft, and it is a matter of congratulation that, notwithstanding the almost universal unfavorable conditions, Chapter Masonry has not only held its own, but has made a reasonable degree of increase. One point we note with pleasure: that there is more than ever before an expression of deeper earnestness, more fervency and zeal and a fuller recognition of the guidance and protection of the great I Am in all our labors and achievements.

"Companions: This Report is for you, and we sincerely hope you will gather all the good that it may contain. Knowledge, no matter from what source it be drawn, is truly power, and the more Masonic knowledge we possess the greater our power for benefiting ourselves and our brethren, an ever present resource that increases the more it is drawn upon."

Companion J. H. Irvine was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion James F. Robinson was re-elected Grand Secretary.

QUEBEC.

The Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual Grand Convocation, held January 28, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426, present a neat volume, well arranged and printed. It has a portrait page, with the features of four distinguished Companions.

The Convocation was opened by M. E. Companion E. T. D. Chambers, Grand Z., in the New Temple at Montreal. The Grand Z. in his address refers, at the outset, to the fact that this Convocation is the first meeting of a "Grand Masonic Body" held within the walls of the "Splendid Structure."

His address is interesting, and our feelings go to him, in warm and tender sympathy as we read the following:

"Five weeks ago to-day, I knelt by the bedside of a beloved son, who had but a few days before completed his twenty-first year. I endured the indescribable pang of watching the gradual yielding up of the soul of our dear child to the God who gave it."

May the peace which our Supreme High Priest alone can afford be vouchsafed to the mind of our afflicted Companion.

The Grand Z. reports official visits to all Chapters, except some in Montreal, which were omitted by reason of his bereavement. He considers that the subordinate bodies have made substantial progress, although the net gain is but fifteen. This,

"In view of the influences that constantly militate against Masonry in Quebec, and the depressing influences of another bad business year."

He reports five dispensations, having reference to the election or installation of officers, and four decisions are noted, of which he says, "none of them include any novelty." We should consider them sound Masonic law anywhere.

The Reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts are interesting and show careful inspection, and the Grand Treas-

urer's statement exhibits $451.86 to the credit of the General Fund, and $709.44 to the credit of the Benevolent Fund. The larger amount is in the proper fund, in our opinion.

We should disagree with the method used in one case of expulsion. The Chapter from which the case came sent up no record. "The documents" said the Committee, "are not in shape for consideration." The Committee on Jurisprudence recommended, and correctly, that the case be returned with instructions, but later the Representatives of the Chapter "having submitted further statements to the Grand Chapter," the accused was *on motion* expelled.

Companion Will H. Whyte presents a Report on Foreign Correspondence covering ninety-three pages. It is excellent from the first word to the last, of attractive arrangement and most fraternally conceived. Under Arizona, he encourages a desirable class of brothers:

> "It is not always the men who work up grandiloquent lectures on the fraternity that make the most successful leaders. 'Plain business men' with good common sense ofttimes achieve greater success for their constituents by their practical example and work, than those who can lecture but not perform."

Companion Singleton, of the District of Columbia, is quoted at length upon the question of proper titles for the first three officers of a Chapter. Companion Whyte defends the English system, but produces excellent reasons for holding that the present order of the second and third officers should be reversed. We are not likely to feel vital interest in the decision.

Indiana suggests to Companion Whyte one of the possible surprises, not infrequent to the searcher in Freemasonry. It is stated that the order of High Priesthood was first conferred in that State in 1825, one of the Companions conferring it having "received this Order in *Canada* before removing to Indiana in 1820."

With Maryland, our Brother expresses clear headedness upon the subject of members and resignations.

"It seems to us that the Brethren of to-day have lost sight of some of the points and principles that guided the Fraternity in the past. They mix up the rights of membership in a private Lodge with the rights of a Mason in the Fraternity at large."

We of the Keystone State find no difficulty. If a Companion thinks he cannot or will not pay dues, he may go and freely, unless perchance there is a settlement to be had, financial or moral. But if he goes, he must not mar the fair name of the Fraternity. For such an offence, he is answerable just as before.

The Grand High Priest of Michigan recommends that his Grand Chapter become incorporated. His reason is, "we cannot sue or be sued." Thereupon Companion Whyte remarks:

"Strange, very! What do they want to be sued for? If they owe anything, why do they not pay their debts like honorable men and Masons? Why wait to be sued? And moreover whom do they want to sue? Brother Masons?

As to that phase of the question, correct indeed.

Pennsylvania is kindly noticed, and the remarks of M. E. Companion Henderson commended. Commenting upon a remark of our late Companion Clark, he says as to "published work":

"The trouble with oral work is that no one can ever positively know what was originally adopted."

We find no such trouble, and for a large Jurisdiction, we have and preserve a remarkably uniform "work."

Eleven Chapters. 472 Members.

JOHN B. TRESIDDER, *Grand Z.*

Montreal. WILL H. WHYTE, *Grand Scribe E.*

RHODE ISLAND.

The Proceedings of this venerable Jurisdiction have been for a long time absent from our annual view. We do not know where the omission lies, but understand perfectly that nothing but accident has caused the apparent non-intercourse.

1893.

The Proceedings of the Ninety-Fifth Convocation were held May 14th, 1893, M. E. George H. Kenyon, M. D., Grand High Priest. The transactions were few, and the address of the Grand High Priest brief and business like. The Chapters are reported "in a prosperous and healthful condition." Ten Chapters are on the roll, and 2,275 members, a strong average. No Report on Correspondence.

1894.

March 13th, 1894, M. E. Horace K. Blanchard, Grand High Priest, opened the Ninety-Fifth Annual Convocation. He reports satisfactory condition:

"No appeals have been made, no grievances presented, and no decisions asked for."

Six dispensations were granted, four of them being to change dates of what we should call "stated meetings." The wisdom of this is doubtful. The returns show a net gain of thirty members.

The Most Excellent Master's Degree was "worked in full form" upon four candidates, which for instruction was far better than any printed ritual. Memorial records and an appendix occupy 19 pages of the 34, composing the transactions. No Correspondence.

1895.

M. E. Albert L. Anthony, Grand High Priest, presided at the Annual Convocation, held March 12th, 1895. Forty-eight

members "reported present and entitled to vote." The address shows careful attention to the interests of the Grand Chapter. Six dispensations, the majority being to change time of "regular Convocations," reported.

We can cheerfully believe the conclusion, stated in the following extract:

"During the year I have visited each Chapter in the Jurisdiction, one or more times, and believe these fraternal occasions have been of benefit to those who participate therein."

M. E. Companion Anthony strongly urges co-union with the General Grand Chapter. The numerical strength of the Grand Bodies aggregated in the General Grand Body seems to be the chief argument.

The selection and record of a mark, by individual Companions has been, he says, "sadly neglected in the past" in his Jurisdiction, and he quotes our M. E. Companion Tennis' views with approval.

Attention is called to their coming Centennial, and provision made to the extent of selecting a Historian, M. E. Rev. Henry W. Rugg. No better choice could possibly be made.

The distinguished brother, last named, presents in twenty-four pages, a "Report on Correspondence." The various subjects presented to his notice are reviewed topically, and with great ability. Under "The Past Master's Degree," he quotes at length from our Companion Henderson's Report for 1894, and adds:

"For many years we have not hesitated to express our opinion, that the Past Master's Degree belongs to the Lodge and not to the Chapter. It should be under the control of the Grand Lodge. The General Grand Chapter could render no better service to the Royal Craft, in the way of legislation as to this subject, than to set aside the degree—discarding it altogether."

As to the General Grand Chapter, Companion Rugg, uses at some length, from the Report made to the Grand Chapter of

Pennsylvania in September, 1893, but he evidently leans to the idea of future union.

We could, with profit, use all his Report, for it is very interesting.

Two handsomely engraved portraits enrich the Proceedings.

1896.

The Ninety-Eighth Annual Convocation was held March 10th, 1896. M. E. Albert L. Anthony, who was re-elected Grand High Priest in 1895, presiding. His address, like the preceding one, shows that nothing has been neglected. After reporting visitations and dispensations, he again calls attention to selection of Marks. By way of illustration, he mentions:

"In one of our oldest and largest Chapters, but four Marks have been recorded in their book in the past twenty years."

We fear the same neglect is not uncommon elsewhere.

The Grand High Priest speaks most pleasantly of his presence at our Centennial, November 23, 1895:

"As the Representative from this Grand Chapter, I was shown every attention and courtesy, which our fraters in Philadelphia are so noted for. The occasion will be long remembered by those who were permitted to participate therein. I trust that two years hence we can reciprocate some of the favors, which they showered upon your humble servant. Our Representative near that Grand Chapter, Companion Ellsworth H. Hults, was especially zealous in our behalf, and I take this occasion to express my thanks for his particular attention and generous hospitality."

He notes that Grand Chapter Centennials are now in order—New York in February, 1897; Maryland in November next; Rhode Island in March, 1898; Connecticut in May following, and Massachusetts in December of same year.

The Report of the Grand Treasurer shows an invested fund of $2,300.00, and a cash balance of $3,577.00.

Rev. Companion H. W. Rugg again furnishes a Report on Correspondence in eighteen pages. His leading subjects are—

Relation of Cryptic and Capitular Freemasonry, Ceremonies and Rituals, Use of Substitutes, Grand Representative System, and Installations and Printed Rituals. Upon the last mentioned we like his views, not merely because they correspond with our own, but because he states them so well.

Under "Notable events during the past year," Companion Rugg writes agreeably on our Centennial:

"Pennsylvania, which still holds itself aloof from the General Grand Chapter, for reasons satisfactory to itself, has good cause for making the most of a Centennial celebration. It has administered the affairs of Capitular Freemasonry, within its Jurisdiction, in such a way as to be creditable to itself and helpful to the institution at large. It has not sought out new inventions or practiced sensational methods; it has gone on in a very conservative, sensible, and yet fraternal manner, to the fulfillment of accepted obligations in the upholding of Royal Arch Masonry, according to the essentials which it holds ought to govern all cases. It has declared the law according to its interpretation and enforced it; given instruction, united Brethren and Companions in the strong bonds of affection; upheld the landmarks of Freemasonry, and in all these respects has made for itself a name and an abiding reputation. Pennsylvania has sometimes seemed a little too independent, as if it took satisfaction in being unlike its neighbors; but, on the whole, we like the style in which it expresses Freemasonry, whether in the Blue Lodge or in the Chapter. At any rate, the Centennial celebration, to which we refer, was a notable event, and it must have an influence for good, not only within the jurisdiction, but outside its limits.

"Other Grand Chapters, New York, Maryland and Rhode Island among the number, will soon celebrate their respective centennial anniversaries. May they celebrate with as much satisfaction as old Pennsylvania. An hundred years is a goodly period of time to be covered by the work of an institution. It is well, when it can be shown in so good a degree as was the case with Pennsylvania, to have done good work, and true work, conducive, as we like to think, to the welfare of man and the glory of God."

We again have two portraits with the Proceedings.

Ten Chapters, 2,438 Members.

Caleb L. Knight, Woonsocket, *Grand High Priest.*
William R. Greene, Providence, *Grand Secretary.*

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1896.

The Eighty-Fifth Annual Grand Convocation was held in Charleston, February 11th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

Present, M. E. Grand High Priest Companion Jacob T. Barron and the other elective Grand Officers.

Seventeen Chapters represented.

The annual address of the Grand High Priest is confined almost strictly to a report of his official actions during the past year.

From it we learn that he visited most of the Chapters in the Jurisdiction and under "Condition of the Royal Craft," says:

> "I feel that I cannot report our condition as *entirely* satisfactory. I find that the officers are becoming more familiar with the new Ritual, and, as a natural consequence, the attendance is generally larger and more interest is displayed at our Convocations.
>
> "I know of no discord in our ranks, nor has there been such difference of opinion in the government of the affairs of the Subordinate Chapters as to necessitate the submission of any question for the ruling of the Grand High Priest."

One dispensation for a new Chapter was granted, but, as they had not time to accomplish much, the dispensation was continued until the next Annual Grand Convocation.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter and Code of By-Laws for Subordinate Chapters, made a report, which was ordered to be printed as an appendix to this year's Report, and considered at the next Grand Annual Convocation.

From the Report of the Grand Treasurer we find that the receipts about balance the expenditures.

The Reports made by the Chapters give number exalted, 43; affiliated, 4; reinstated, 1; dimitted, 18; died, 11; suspended, 50; expelled, 1; total members, 594.

The Proceedings are neatly printed, and have for an appendix the proposed revision of the constitution.

The Grand High Priest was re-elected, and after his installation "stated that he felt fully justified in saying that at our next Convocation a much finer showing would be made."

The Report on Correspondence is made by Companion Albert E. Fugle, Grand Secretery, who reviews briefly the Proceedings of thirty-three Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania not included, commenting upon what he deems worthy of notice and favoring living up to the law and the regulations for the good of the Craft. With many of his views we agree.

JACOB T. BARRON, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
ALBERT E. FUGLE, *R. E. Grand Secretary.*

SOUTH DAKOTA.

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of South Dakota, was held at Huron, June 11, 1896.

Companion Harvey J. Rice, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding, and twenty Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest in his address, says:

"My official duties have not been heavy during the year. There have been no grievances or appeals, and it has not been possible for me to make the visitations I had hoped to make. A good many questions were submitted, but most of them only required a reference to the law; and the only regret I have is that I cannot report a more prosperous condition among our Chapters."

Four dispensations are reported, one being to dispense with "constitutional time." It was upon "urgent request" and "against my own judgment," says the Grand High Priest.

The Proceedings indicate entire harmony, and while the losses in membership exceed the gains by eleven, it surely will be recovered in the near future.

Past Grand High Priest Companion L. G. Levoy presents the Report on Correspondence, in 108 pages, from which Pennsylvania is absent. The character of the Report causes

us specially to regret this fact. The gift of condensation is remarkable in these pages, and in review the reader is brought face to face to face with about all that is worth knowing in the Proceedings of each Grand Chapter. In Companion Levoy's hands, clearness has not been sacrificed, but conciseness is everywhere. His own views are expressed modestly but firmly. Of course we do not always agree with him, but respect opinions carefully formed.

According to his Report, South Dakota stands at the front all along the line. Under numerous Grand Chapters, we find it stated that South Dakota's Representative is the Grand High Priest. If the Representative's commission from our esteemed Sister will bring that honor, there are several in Pennsylvania who will be looking out for the appointment.

He stands up for the independence of the Corps reportorical.

Under Louisiana he takes just occasion to say:

"Correspondents generally would have a hard time of it did all Grand High Priests resent the criticisms which are framed with no intention of injury, but rather for the purposes of information."

Our Companion favors us all along the line, with constant reference to two questions, one being the constitutional limitations upon the powers of Grand High Priests, the other the matter of "dependent membership." On the latter he has examined the older and later constitutions and draws a conclusion, which we think somewhat fanciful. But the doctrine is sound, that when a Brother withdraws from his Lodge, and persists in non-affiliation, he should lose Chapter membership. Grand Chapters have power so as to legislate, without being constrained by "vested rights." Remove and annul the Blue Degrees, and the Royal Arch fails and falls in legend and in fact. We find it highly expedient to insist that membership shall do the same.

We can not, however, agree so nearly with our Companion's views upon the powers of our Grand High Priests. It does

not seem at all necessary that prerogative powers must be traced to extreme antiquity, to give them validity. Even here, however, something might be said. But experience confirms us in a well settled opinion that a Grand High Priest should be something more than a mere executive officer, in these days of constitution making. The primary underlying idea of Masonic organization is of that complexion. With us in Pennsylvania, for many years, the Grand Master of Grand Lodge was ex-officio the head of Grand Chapter, and the great powers he could of right exercise over any part of the Ancient Craft, survived to the splendid line which has presided in Grand Chapter since the cession of 1824. We find it good to uphold prerogatives, and then call only our best men to use them. We fear no harm thereby.

We should be glad to quote extensively from this Report, and can truly say that no Companion can consider it time wasted, who reads it in full.

Twenty-six Chapters. 1,491 Members.

GEORGE V. AYRES, *Grand High Priest.*
Address Flandreau. GEO. A. PETTIGREW, *Grand Secretary.*

TENNESSEE, 1896.

The Sixty-Seventh Annual Convocation was held in Nashville, January 27th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

M. E. Albert G. Kimbrough, Grand High Priest, presiding.

Present, all the elective Grand Officers, except the Grand Principal Sojourner and the Grand Royal Arch Captain, ten Past Grand High Priests, and the representatives of sixty-one Chapters.

The address of the Grand High Priest is confined to a brief statement of his official acts.

From the address we take the following:

"Our Grand Jurisdiction has been blessed with peace and prosperity, and I have but one case of unpleasantness to cite between us and sister Grand Jurisdictions: the controrversy between Anderson Chapter, 141. of Bristol, Tenn., and E. H. Gill Chapter, 50, of Bristol, Va., referred to me by the Grand Chapter one year ago.

"I regret I have been unable to settle the question in dispute."

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence after recommending the publication of the correspondence, added:

"We further recommend that this Grand Chapter request the Grand Chapter of Virginia to appoint a commission of three Royal Arch Masons to meet a similar commission to be appointed by this Grand Body, either in personal conference or by correspondence, and that all matters under controversy be submitted to this joint commission, that this joint commission be requested to settle the same in that spirit of fairness and justice that should always characterize Royal Arch Masons."

Charters were granted to three Chapters under dispensation.

Two dispensations were granted for new Chapters.

The Grand Chapter adopted a resolution to exemplify the Mark, Most Excellent and Royal Arch Degrees alternately, commencing with the Mark Degree at the next Annual Convocation. This is better than doing nothing, but to exemplify a degree once in every three years does not seem often enough to be of lasting benefit.

The deficit still exists, and in order to pay the accrued indebtedness the sum of six hundred dollars was borrowed.

The Charters of three Chapters were arrested and one dispensation revoked.

Exalted, 160; admitted, 34; restored, 7; withdrawn, 80; suspended for non-payment of dues, 42; expelled, 1; died, 60.

Total Royal Arch Masons, 2755.

In the neatly printed pamphlet containing the Proceedings, having for a frontispiece a portrait of Companion Albert G. Kimbrough, P. G. H. P., three memorial pages are devoted, one to the Grand Principal Sojourner, Companion Henry

Ripley Howard, another to the Grand Sentinel, Companion Charles Lewis Fuller, and the third to the dead of sister Jurisdictions.

The Report on Correspondence is made by Companion Henry H. Ingersoll, who makes a brief review, rendered still more brief by the failure to receive many Reports until after the demands of the printer left but little time to devote to them.

From his introductory:

"The Reports of Proceedings from our sister Jurisdictions are filled with generous tributes to the memory of our distinguished brethren whose loss we mourned at our last Convocation.

"Two of them, Connor and Frizzell, were Masons of national reputation; and some of these memorials are elaborate, testifying unmistakably to the high rank which Tennessee Masonry has in the United States.

"Therefore you will find many quotations from the addresses and reports of our sister Jurisdictions in laudation of our departed Companions; and if Companion Hughes' name is not mentioned so often as the others, it is only because he was not so generally known, for no truer Mason than John W. Hughes was ever exalted to the Royal Arch."

We have read his Report with pleasure and satisfaction. Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice.

In the matter of the recognition of New South Wales, he thinks that we acted wisely, and that Tennessee acted too promptly in its recognition.

He clips from the preface to the Correspondence Report, and says:

"And in support of the last remark, the correspondent cites the existence of this degree (Past Master), under the General Grand Chapter, and its recognition by it as an impassable barrier to a union of Pennsylvania with her sister States. For our part, we are in entire sympathy with Pennsylvania in this matter, and would like to join with her, foreigner though she be, to expel from our Chapters this P. M. intruder, so that we might never hear of him more in Capitular Masonry.

"And this committee is bold to say that there are at least one half dozen other correspondents of like view with himself"

We would like to extract his remarks under Washington, upon irreverance and lawlessness; upon the prevailing tendency to allow the violation of law and the evil consequences arising from it, but want of space forbids.

W. D. HENDERSON, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
W. A. CLENDENING, *M. E. Grand Secretary.*

TEXAS.

The Forty-Seventh Grand Annual Convocation was "begun and held" December 1, 1896, Companion A. S. Bunting, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding.

Three Grand Officers had their places supplied, and the mourning line indicates the death of another.

Thirteen Past Grand High Priests present, and ninety-seven Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest presents an interesting address. He notes with fraternal tenderness the decease of three Past Grand Officers, and refers to the distinguished dead of other jurisdictions, our Past Grand High Priest Nisbet among others.

He reports five Chapters constituted, three "charters restored," and six Chapters "revived," the last being a continuance by dispensation of Chapters which had forfeited their charters by failing to meet for three consecutive months.

The Deputy Grand High Priest submits a brief Report, which we notice because he appears to have performed official acts and made decisions without any reference to his superior officer.

The Grand Secretary reports "138 *living* Chapters. Of these, 32 have done no work during the year." The largest Chapter has a membership of 146. Total membership 6,205, a gain of 107.

The financial balance is $5,421.72, and on the right side.

The Committee on Work spent six days with the delegates from the several Chapters, and the attendance seems to have been diligent and uniform. We understand this is for instruction in the work. How very much better this, than any printed ritual?

The returns of Chartered Chapters are apportioned for examination among three Committees, a great relief to the Grand Secretary. Two Committees, Nos. 1 and 2, "on petitions," have charge of applications for new Chapters or restoration of Chapters.

The Committee on Jurisprudence did not fully agree with the rulings of the Grand High Priest. He had authorized the election of a Secretary, to fill vacancy caused in a Chapter by removal of the elected incumbent. We think the Committee was wrong in holding that, in such case, appointment must be made pro tempore.

The following from the Committee on Grievances and Appeals is worth remembering:

"Owing to the wise, firm and gentle conduct of our M. E. Grand High Priest in governing the Royal Craft, and owing to the Craft having yielded to the laws and commandments, there has arisen no confusion which required the action of your Committee."

All things seem to have been done "decently and in order," and the Grand Orator, discussing eloquently in eulogy of our Craft, spoke to appreciative Companions.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is again ably presented by Companion John L. Terrell. In 82 closely printed pages, are the summaries of 47 Grand Bodies with appropriate comments.

The reviewer stands up stoutly for the wisdom of Texas laws as established by his Grand Chapter, and while we find that a careless Chapter may run into "demise" almost without knowing it, yet the law is reasonable and almost meets our commendation.

The following, under Maine, illustrates one of the advantages enjoyed in antiquated Pennsylvania:

"The fact is, if there are not nine present there is no Chapter. No High Priest after he has opened the Chapter should allow the number to get below the constitutional minimum. If from any unforseen event, the ninth is compelled to retire, and his place cannot be filled, the High Priest can close 'without ceremony' and free himself from the dilemma. Otherwise he has nothing to close, until he can get his ninth Companion."

Query:—Does a Chapter closed "without ceremony" differ in status from one closed with nine present?

Companion Terrell deserves encomium for his warfare upon cipher and printed rituals. Our objections to them go further than his, but we agree heartily.

Pennsylvania is kindly noticed in three pages containing liberal extracts from the addresses of M. E. Companions Perkins and Tennis, delivered at our Centennial. The Order of High Priesthood as used by us, a part of a High Priest's installation into office, meets our approval. We find it indeed an excellent arrangement. But our treatment of the "Past Master's Degree" fails to please our reasonable Brother, and he repeats the questions propounded by him the previous year. We do not wonder that our lamented Companion Clark did not answer as our Texas Brother expected, when the questions themselves assumed conditions which we do not admit. We have no "actual" or "virtual" Past Masters. Neither are known to us. *All* who receive the instruction permitted by our Grand Lodge are Past Masters: some by service and some by dispensation. If it is necessary that a Royal Arch Mason must be a Past Master, we submit that the powers of a Grand Master can reach much nearer and more legitimately to the desired end, than a farce enacted in a so-called Lodge. But every one to his notion.

There is no need for reproving our Companion Henderson. He always knows what he is talking about, and if angry at wilful misrepresentation, he does well.

The Report altogether is judicious and fraternal. It is a pleasure to read it. We do wish, however, if the lists of members of Subordinate Chapters must be printed, that they be issued as a separate pamphlet, and give us the Proceedings and Correspondence in larger type.

R. O. Rounsavall, *Grand High Priest.*

Houston. Geo. Lopas, Jr., *Grand Secretary.*

VERMONT.

The M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Vermont met in Seventy-Ninth Annual Convocation at Burlington, on the 12th day of June, 1896. All the Grand Officers save one, present; also seven Past Grand High Priests, and twenty-seven Chapters (the full number) represented.

The address of M. E. Companion Robert J. Wright, Grand High Priest, recalls by name all the Companions of his Jurisdiction who died during the year, and mentions the distinguished dead of other Jurisdictions. Our M. E. Companion Nisbet has place, and a memorial tablet is elsewhere printed in fraternal recognition. The Grand High Priest declined to issue dispensation for one proposed new Chapter; granted one to elect officers at Special Convocation, and three to receive and ballot upon petitions "without waiting the lawful time." Sickness and slow recovery prevented visitations. Other reports show prosperous condition of membership and finance.

The Reports of the District Deputy Grand High Priests are printed in full, and show pains-taking work. Visits were carefully made, and many interesting details are given.

The Report on Correspondence was prepared by M. E. Companion Marsh O. Perkins, P. G. H. P., and is very interesting. Pennsylvania somehow did not reach his notice.

The transactions of the Grand Chapters are judiciously summarized, and the comments are careful and fraternal. We notice as recurring topics, the work of the General Grand Chapter and "Cipher Rituals." It is to be inferred that M. E. Companion Perkins is not favorably impressed with either.

Under Delaware, he says:

"The work of the General Grand Chapter was adopted in the interest of uniformity, a point Delaware will never see reached, unless she puts on seven-league boots to keep a pace with the triennial changes."

And in connection with Alabama, the following:

"Companion Pillans is 'unanimously adverse' to Cipher Rituals of any description, and professes to see death and destruction following in their wake. He need not be disturbed, as the General Grand will never hold long enough to one form of work to make its cipher at least intelligible, even to those entitled to a knowledge of its mysteries."

Wherefore we suppose he would say to Pennsylvania, as he has said to Texas:

"If we stood in the shoes of our Texas Companions, we would never budge an inch from the position of independence they now hold."

We are grateful for this appreciation of the soundness of Pennsylvania's position.

It seems that in Wisconsin the question arose "whether smoking should be permitted in open Chapter." A strange question, truly, and Companion Perkins comments, as follows:

"It is our belief that it is the first duty of a High Priest to preserve order and decency at all times in Chapter assemblies, and that he should tolerate nothing therein that might offend the most sensitive Companion. An open Chapter is not a club smoking-room, nor is burning tobacco the incense Royal Arch Masons are supposed to offer up therein 'with a pure and contrite heart.'

"In trying not to offend the sensitive smoker, we are too much inclined to forget the equally sensitive non-smoker."

But if every member of a Chapter wished smoking allowed, it is still true that it would be indecent and out of place.

This Report furnishes agreeable thought in perusal, and we finish it with regret.

Twenty-seven Chapters. Membership, 2,718.

DANIEL N. NICHOLSON, *Grand High Priest.*
Burlington. WARREN G. REYNOLDS, *Grand Secretary.*

VICTORIA.

We have pamphlet Proceedings numbered 15, 16 and 17, giving the transactions of Supreme Grand Chapter, held at Melbourne, July 22, 1895, January 27, 1896, and July 27, 1896.

At each Convocation M. E. Companion George Baker, Grand H. presided as Grand Z. The First Grand Principal was absent on account of illness.

We learn that the differences heretofore existing with Canadian Chapters have been fully settled, and the amalgamation is complete. The Canadian Charters are cancelled, and there is, therefore, nothing to interfere with harmonious progress.

The business of this Supreme Body, like that of England, is formulated in an Elective Committee of General Purposes, and the propositions emanating from it have much weight. A proposal to change Law No. 23, omitting the words:

"The Grand Master of the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria shall be First Grand Principal, if a Royal Arch Mason,"

was lost. This law will remind Pennsylvania Masons of our own early Capitular history.

Honorary Past Official Rank was conferred upon several distinguished Companions, in recognition of merit, and evidently, also, to smooth the way to complete fraternal union.

We notice that this Grand Chapter is opened and closed in "Antient and Solemn Form."

W. J. CLARKE, Bart., *M. E. First Grand Principal.*
Melbourne. JOHN BRAIM, *G. Scribe E.*

VIRGINIA.

The Eighty-Eighth Grand Annual Convocation was held in Richmond, November 12-13, 1895, M. E. Geo. Wilson Poe, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty Chapters were represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest is interesting and sincere. He says:

"Capitular Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, candor compels me to say, is not as flourishing as Ancient Craft Masonry. In some parts of our State it is doing grandly, but here in our own city we find it a difficult matter to get a full complement of officers, our young men claiming that there is too much work to leave, and we have to fall back on the old stagers to help us out at each convocation."

He suggests haste in conferring degrees as one of the causes of this condition, and quotes approvingly a recommendation by a former Grand High Priest of Tennessee, that candidates should show proficiency in each degree before advancement.

The dead are not forgotten. Among others, Companion William B. Isaacs, Grand Secretary, is mentioned as having "died at his home, after a continuous service of more than fifty-two years." This distinguished Freemason was well known outside his own jurisdiction, and there are many who heard with regret of his decease. The Grand King, Companion F. A. Reed, was also among those who had passed within the inner vail.

The Grand High Priest reported that he had removed the suspension of one Chapter by "prescript;" he had issued dispensation for a Chapter at Winchester, where one had become extinct, and refused to sanction a new Chapter at Pulaski. He reports ten visits to Chapters and pleasant experience. He also notes several invitations for Masonic events, and his intention to have Virginia represented at our Centennial in Philadelphia. Referring to our own Proceedings, we are sorry to see that he was among those who sent regrets.

He took occasion to speak in highest commendation of the Masonic Home of Virginia, and urges the Grand Chapter to extend the uses of the Home, by raising sufficient funds to open the annex to the widows of deceased brethren. While this excellent idea made no further progress just then, it will not be lost.

The Grand Lecturer, who was also Grand Scribe, made a report showing his efforts to teach and maintain the work were earnest and successful. He gives us to understand that their "uniform, beautiful and consistent work" is "now practiced in all" the Chapters. He adds:

"I am prepared to state advisedly that Capitular Masonry is in better condition to-day throughout the Grand Jurisdiction than at any time in its history."

The District Deputy Grand Lecturers also made reports giving quite circumstantially the condition of the several Chapters in their charge. These reports are printed in full, and we think with good effect.

The legislatve functions were performed in "Grand Committee of the Whole," which were affirmed in Grand Chapter. We infer from one amendment that it has been lawful to confer the Capitular Degrees upon any Master Mason, without inquiry as to his membership. If so, it is now most properly changed.

There is no Report on Correspondence. In this connection we quote again from the address of the Grand High Priest:

"We have not been favored with a report from the Committee (Correspondence) for some years. I hope the Chairman will see to it that such is not the case in 1896. We should keep up this feature of our Annual Convocation, so that the Companions of Virginia may be informed as to what is hapening in Capitular Masonry throughout our sister Grand Chapters."

Thirty-eight Chapters. 2,407 Members returned.

JACOB BUMGARDNER, *Grand High Priest.*
Petersburg. JAMES B. BLANKS, *Grand Secretary.*

WASHINGTON.

The Twelfth Annual Convocation was opened at Seattle, June 5th, 1896, M. E. Edward R. Hare, Grand High Priest, presiding. Four Past Grand High Priests and the Representatives of seventeen Chapters present.

The address presents the customary review of the work of the year. Under caption "Home Relations," we find:

> "The utmost harmony and good feeling exists among our own Chapters, and so far as I have any knowledge, no case of grievance will be referred to you for consideration at the Convocation."

He granted five dispensations, four of which were "permission to use a substitute in the Royal Arch Degree." The Grand Representative system finds no favor with him, for he says:

> "I am opposed to the whole Representive scheme as utterly useless, and I should be pleased to see the Grand Chapter abandon a practice which can never be of any benefit to us, and which may do us harm."

The Ritual, as in other Jurisdictions, is a subject of discussion, and even the obligation has attention. The "Fifth Tie," whatever that may be, is felt to be unjust, and recommended to be "cut out," which the Grand Chapter afterwards did excise.

The Grand High Priest reports few visitations, but abundant hospitality on one or two "especial occasions."

The Report of the Grand Treasurer shows a good cash balance, and that of the Grand Secretary indicates careful attention to duty.

The By-Laws of the Grand Chapter were amended in several particulars, notably in providing for the election of the first five officers of each Chapter.

The Grand Orator delivered an address which was ordered printed. The following, by the Grand Secretary, shows why we are not favored with the oration:

"The copy of the address was left in charge of the Grand Secretary, and was 'stolen' on the day before the Grand Convocation; but not to be outdone, E. Companion Weatherwax, after an all night's session with himself, produced a splendid effort in verse, of which we are, up to the present, unable to procure a copy."

The verses are however printed, and from the local and individual allusions, were undoubtedly pleasing to the hearers.

The Seventh Annual Report on Correspondence is presented by Companion Yancey C. Blalock. It purports to present a "Report of transactions and state of the Craft," and fills the bill exactly. His extracts are well chosen, and space given only for presentation of important features. Under California, however, ten pages are devoted to a court decision in a Cerneau case, which we consider becomes unnecessarily prominent.

Pennsylvania (1895) receives due attention. The decisions of our Grand High Priest are extracted in full, and the closing part of the Correspondence Committee is given.

It is a pleasure to read Companion Blalock's Report, and his work as Grand Secretary shows for itself, square work.

Seventeen Chapters. 1,143 Members—a net loss of 2.

WALTER L. DARBY, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
Walla Walla. YANCEY C. BLALOCK, *M. E. Grand Secretary.*

WEST VIRGINIA, 1895.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Charleston, on Monday the 11th day of November, A. D. 1895, A. I. 2425.

M. E. Neil Robison, Grand High Priest, presiding. Eighteen Chapters represented.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we learn that Royal Arch Masonry has advanced steadily within the Jurisdiction, and that harmony has prevailed.

One new Chapter was instituted and the officers thereof installed, starting with a membership of 54.

One dispensation was granted to a new Chapter, and one continued until the next Annual Convocation.

The Grand High Priest acknowledges the receipt from M. E. Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, G. H. P., of an invitation to attend the one hundreth anniversary of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Chapter was called on to mourn the loss of M. E. Franklin Rex, P. G. H. P., a zealous and faithful Companion. Companion Rex was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and educated at the High School in Philadelphia.

A committee was appointed to make suitable arrangements for the proper celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Grand Chapter, which will occur on the 16th of November, 1896.

From the tabular statement of returns we find the number exalted 120, and that the membership was 1216, a gain of 100. There is no Report on Correspondence. The publication of the Proceedings was delayed in the hope that Companion H. W. Torrence, who has been seriously ill for several months, would be able to complete it, but he was compelled to abandon the effort.

We regret to know that our Companion reviewer has been so seriously ill, but hope that he will soon be restored to health and his duties as chairman of the Committee on Correspondence.

M. E. Samuel N. Myers, *Grand High Priest.*
R. E. Odel S. Long, *Grand Secretary.*

WISCONSIN, 1896.

The Forty-Sixth Annual Convocation was held in Milwaukee, February 18th and 19th, A. D. 1896, A. I. 2426.

Companion Samuel Wright, Grand High Priest, presiding. Seventy Chapters represented.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we learn that the Chapters have about held their own, there being a slight increase in membership, mostly in the new Chapters, with a falling off in some of the old; which leads him to state that to sustain a Chapter of 75 members, the average in Wisconsin, requires a Lodge membership of at least 225, and to advise a regulation that no new dispensation for a Chapter shall be granted that will reduce the number required for the proper support of the old Chapters. He does not favor the appointment of Grand Representatives, and recommends that the system be abolished.

The Committee, to which these recommendations were referred, did not agree with the Grand High Priest, and the Grand Chapter sustained the Committee.

He regrets that he was unable to attend the Centennial celebration of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, or to secure a representative. We are sorry that Wisconsin was not represented.

Three dispensations were granted for new Chapters.

An amendment to the Constitution was adopted in the case of jurisdiction over rejected applicants, as follows:

"*Provided*, That in case the candidate removes from the jurisdiction of the rejecting Chapter, it shall lose jurisdiction after a period of three years."

Four charters were granted to Chapters under dispensation.

From the returns we learn that the number exalted during the year was 363, and the increase in membership 179.

The Proceedings are issued in a neat and attractive volume.

By permission of the Grand Chapter, the Proceedings of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Wisconsin are printed in the same volume with its own Proceedings.

The Report on Correspondence is made by Companion Wm. C. Swain, who reviews the Proceedings of forty-four Grand

Chapters in a pleasant and attractive manner, giving his reasons freely and upholding his opposition to dependent membership and physical perfection. He favors the elimination of the Past Master's Degree, and the granting of increased powers to Chapters under dispensation.

As we have no Chapters under dispensation in Pennsylvania, we favor the granting, by the Grand Chapter, of a charter direct to an approved number of non-affiliated Royal Arch Masons, having among their number Companions sufficiently acquainted with the law and the ritual to avoid the dangers arising from the desires of rash and over-zealous Companions.

Pennsylvania for 1894 receives fraternal notice.

He does not seem to be clear in his views as to the result of the expulsion of a Royal Arch Mason by the Grand Chapter. It expels him from all the rights and privileges of Capitular Masonry.

He quotes Companion Wm. James Hughan's letter relative to new discoveries in regard to the history of the Mark Degree.

Commends Companion Henderson's opening of the Correspondence Report, and quotes portions of it.

J. Thomas Pryor, Jr., *M. E. Grand High Priest.*
John W. Laflin, *Grand Secretary.*

CONCLUSION.

Companions:—We have attempted in this Report to present, in brief, what seems to us to be of importance and interest in the doings and opinions of our sister Grand Chapters. We have observed wherein their customs and ideas differ from our own, and trust what is here set down may prove entertaining and instructive.

We regret that the Proceedings of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia and Maryland failed to reach us, while we gladly welcome Rhode Island after a protracted absence.

To allthe Grand Chapters on our list of correspondents, we extend most cordial greetings. We rejoice with them in their prosperity, and sympathize with them in the loss of distinguished and zealous Companions for whom they have cause to mourn.

We desire to thank the members of the "Corps Reportorial" for many kindly words of consideration, and reciprocate most heartily their expressions of good will and fraternal courtesy.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON,
EDGAR A. TENNIS,
J. SIMPSON AFRICA,
JOSHUA L. LYTE,
JAMES H. CODDING,
Committee on Correspondence.

THE GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1897.

Its Chapters, Place and Time of Meeting, and Secretaries.

No.	Name	Constituted in	Place of Meeting.	Time of Meeting.	Name and Address of Secretary.
3	Jerusalem	1758	Philadelphia	Third Monday	Stanislaus Remak, Philadelphia.
21	Perseverance	1827	Harrisburg	First Monday	William H. Smith, Harrisburg.
43		1826	Lancaster	Third Thursday	Joshua L. Lyte, Lancaster.
52	Harmony	1794	Philadelphia	First Friday	John Curtis, Philadelphia.
91	Columbia	1822	Philadelphia	Third Wednesday	Charles F. Wignall, Philadelphia
150	Washington	1827	Washington	First Friday	Lon M. Porter, Washington.
152	Reading	1827	Reading	Second Monday	Charles H. Armour, Reading.
159	Schuylkill	1838	Minersville	Thursday on or before full moon	Henry Hammer, Minersville.
161	Union	1845	Towanda	Second Wednesday	James H. Codding, Towanda.
162	Zerubbabel	1846	Pittsburgh	First Tuesday	Samuel R. Caskey, Pittsburgh.
163	LaFayette	1848	Lock Haven	Third Thursday	John T. Beardsley, Lock Haven.
164	Brownsville	1849	Brownsville	Second Tuesday	Daniel H. Pearsall, Brownsville.
165	Union	1849	Uniontown	First Thursday	Levi S Gaddis, Uniontown.
166	Mount Moriah	1849	Hollidaysburg	Third Tuesday	Harry M. Heushey, Holid'ysb'rg
167	Eureka	1849	Rochester	Friday after full moon	Cornelius Masten, Rochester.
169	Philadelphia	1850	Philadelphia	Second Wednesday	John M. Zook, Philadelphia.
170	Delta	1851	New Castle	First Tuesday	Edward L. Smith, New Castle.
171	St. John's	1852	Carlisle	First Thursday	Charles F. Shower, Carlisle.
172	Temple	1853	Tunkhannock	Monday after full moon	Draper Billings, Tunkhannock.
173	Easton	1853	Easton	Third Thursday	Edward B. Arndt, Easton.
174	Northumberland	1853	Sunbury	Tuesday before full moon	Jacob R. Cressinger, Sunbury.
175	Keystone	1853	Philadelphia	Fourth Monday	H G. O Ramborger, Philadelphia
176	Geo. Washington	1854	Chambersburg	Third Monday	A. C. McGrath, Chambersburg.
177	Tamaqua	1854	Tamaqua	Friday after full moon	William Priser, Tamaqua.
178	Catawissa	1855	Catawissa	Wednesday on or before full moon	Luther B. Kline, M. D., Catawissa.
179	Eureka	1855	Carbondale	Last Friday	John M. Stewart, Carbondale.
180	Warren	1854	Montrose	First Thursday	Oliver A. Gilbert, Montrose.
181	Lilly	1855	Mauch Chunk	Fourth Tuesday	Laird H. Barber, Mauch Chunk.

No.	Name	Constituted in	Place of Meeting	Time of Meeting.	Name and Address of Secretary
182	Shekinah	1855	Wilkes-Barre	Third Monday	John G. Torborg, Wilkes-Barre.
183	Oriental	1856	Philadelphia	Third Thursday	Stockton Bates, Philadelphia.
185	Lackawanna	1856	Scranton	Second Tuesday	C. L. Van Buskirk, Scranton.
186	Lewistown	1856	Lewistown	Third Tuesday	Robert H Junkin, Lewistown.
187	Oriental	1856	Conneautville	Third Friday.	Wm E Wormald, Conneautville.
189	Mountain	1858	Altoona	First Thursday	Timothy Davis, Altoona
190	Norristown	1858	Norristown	Second Monday	Oliver C Knipe, Norristown.
191	Solomon	1858	Meadville	First Tuesday	Alfred G. Church, Meadville
192	Urania	1859	Greensburg	Thursday after third Tuesday	Jacob J. Janeway, Greensburg.
193	Duquesne	1859	Pittsburgh.	Second Friday	William J. Carson, Pittsburgh.
194	Tioga	1859	Wellsboro	Second Tuesday	John W. Mather, Wellsboro.
195	Portage	1859	Johnstown	Fourth Tuesday	John J. Jones Johnstown.
196	Mountain City	1859	Pottsville	Monday after full moon	Charles M. Lewis, Pottsville.
197	Weidle	1860	Lebanon	Second Tuesday	W. G. Ward, Lebanon.
198	Phœnix	1861	Phœnixville	Saturday after full moon	Edward T. Plush, Phœnixville.
199	Howell	1864	York	Wednesday after first Monday	Thomas Wood, York.
200	Columbus	1865	Corry	Wednesday on or before full moon	David S. Rowe, Corry.
201	Standing Stone	1865	Huntingdon	First Tuesday	Martin L. Shaffner, Huntingdon.
202	Howell	1866	West Chester	Monday after full moon	Charles B. Lear, West Chester.
203	Allen	1866	Allentown.	Monday on or before full moon	Armat W. Lee, Allentown.
204	Anthony Wayne	1866	Honesdale	Tuesday on or after full moon	Oscar T. Chambers, Honesdale.
205	Factoryville	1866	Factoryville	Saturday on or before full moon	Charles J. Haag, Factoryville.
206	Harmony	1866	Beaver Falls.	First Thursday	Frank C O'Rourke, New Brighton.
207	Aaron	1866	Titusville	Third Friday	Henry Spitler, Titusville.
208	Germantown	1866	G'rmn't'wn, Phila	Third Monday	E. R. Stevens, Germ'ntown, Phila.
209	Samuel C. Perkins	1866	Mechanicsburg	Second Monday	George Bobb, Mechanicsburg.
210	Great Bend	1866	Great Bend	Second Thursday	Thomas Summerton, Great Bend.
211	Venango	1866	Franklin	Second Thursday	Charles D. Elliott, Franklin.
212	Mound	1866	Greenville	Fourth Monday.	Orson A. Carlin, Greenville.
214	Valley	1867	Plymouth	Fourth Friday.	Samuel U. Shaffer, Plymouth.
215	Temple	1867	Erie	Second Friday	George D. Burton, Erie.
216	Zinzendorf	1867	Bethlehem.	Second Monday	Matthew J. Schmid, Bethlehem.

217	Allegheny	1868	Allegheny	First Friday	G. C. Johnstone, Allegheny City
218	Bloomsburg	1868	Bloomsburg	First Wednesday	C. F. Knapp, Bloomsburg.
219	Griscom	1868	Ashland	Third Thursday	Albert L. Laubenstein, Ashland.
220	Fort Washington	1868	Fort Washington	Saturday after full moon	John A. Wentz, Ambler.
221	Tremont	1869	Tremont	Monday after full moon	Benjamin Kaufman, Tremont.
222	Lycoming	1869	Williamsport	Second Tuesday	Wm. Randall Prior, Williamsport.
223	Oxford	1870	Oxford	Wednesday after full moon	Morrison E. Snodgrass, Oxford.
224	Corinthian	1870	Columbia	Second Tuesday	Andrew J. Kauffman, Columbia.
225	Jefferson	1869	Brookville	First Monday	Cyrus H. Blood, Brookville.
226	Siloam	1869	Frankford, Phila.	Third Wednesday	Matthias Coats, Frankford, Phila.
227	Emporium	1870	Emporium	First Wednesday	John D. Logan, Emporium.
228	Clearfield	1870	Clearfield	Third Friday	L. K. McCullough, Clearfield
229	Newtown	1870	Newtown	Wednesday after full moon	Robert G. Smith, Newtown.
230	Elk	1870	Ridgway	Third Tuesday	George L. McCracken, Ridgway.
232	St. John	1871	Philadelphia	First Tuesday	William F. Tracy, Philadelphia.
233	Kensington	1871	Philadelphia	Fourth Monday	Joseph Crockett, Philadelphia.
234	Media	1871	Media	Monday after full moon	William Campbell, Media
235	Occidental	1871	Warren	Second Monday	Robert W. Teese, Warren.
236	Oil City	1871	Oil City	Third Thursday	Henry C. Goldsborough, Oil City.
237	Excelsior	1871	Reading	Third Tuesday	Thomas E. Weber, Reading.
238	Newport	1872	Newport	Monday after full moon	A. Fred. Keim, Newport.
239	Danville	1872	Danville	Third Monday	John W. Farnsworth, Danville.
240	Palestine	1872	Philadelphia	Second Friday	Edward R. Marsh, Philadelphia.
241	Bellefonte	1872	Bellefonte	First Friday	William H. Crissman, Bellefonte.
242	Pittston	1873	Pittston	2d Thursday after first Wednesday	Thomas W. Kyte, West Pittston.
243	T. B. Freeman	1873	Philadelphia	First Tuesday	George M. D. Apple, Phila.
244	Norman	1873	Sharon	Second Friday	John Murchie, Sharon.
245	Abington	1873	Jenkintown	Tuesday after full moon	Joseph W. Hunter, Jenkintown.
246	Warrior Run	1874	Watsontown	Wednesday after full moon	Fred. A. Reen, Watsontown.
247	Orient	1874	Kittanning	Second Monday	William F. Rupp, Kittanning.
248	Temple	1874	Philadelphia	Third Tuesday	William H. Ziegler, Philadelphia.
249	Monongahela	1874	Monongahela City	Third Thursday	J. P. Norman, Monongahela City.
250	Corinthian	1874	Philadelphia	First Monday	James McCormick, Philadelphia.
251	Signet	1874	Philadelphia	Second Monday	Oscar R. Meyers, Philadelphia.
252	Mizpah	1875	Mahanoy City	Fourth Thursday	Phaon Hermany, Mahanoy City.
254	Arnold	1877	Port Allegany	Second Tuesday	James H. Williams, Port Allegany.

No.	Name.	Constituted in	Place of Meeting.	Time of Meeting.	Name and Address of Secretary.
255	Bedford	1876	Bedford	Wednesday after full moon	James Cleaver, Bedford.
256	Fernwood	1877	Fernwood	Second Wednesday	J. Milton Lutz, Upper Darby.
257	Shiloh	1877	Pittsburgh	Third Monday	George W. Robitzer, Pittsburgh.
258	Chester.	1877	Chester	Last Monday	Edward A. Price, Jr , Chester.
259	Eden	1878	Clarion	Second Tuesday	Henry S. Lockart, Shippensville.
260	Bradford	1880	Bradford	First Thursday	Charles P. McAllister, Bradford.
261	Troy	1882	Troy	Thursday on or before full moon	Isaac Cleaver, Troy, Bradford Co.
262	Montgomery	1882	Ardmore	Thursday after full moon	Thomas McCully, Philadelphia.
263	Coudersport	1882	Coudersport	First Wednesday	Lalon R. Bliss, Coudersport.
264	Shamokin	1883	Shamokin	Wednesday before full moon	John B. Savidge, Shamokin.
265	Westfield	1883	Westfield	First Friday	James Masten, Westfield.
266	Good Samaritan	1886	Gettysburg	Third Thursday	Dan A. Skelly, Gettysburg.
267	Coatesville	1887	Coatesville	Thursday after full moon	G. G. Meyer, Coatesville.
268	Pittsburgh	1888	Pittsburgh	Second Monday	Archie K. Henderson, Pittsburgh.
269	Ulysses	1888	Ulysses	Second Wednesday	Homer K. Lane, Ulysses.
270	Doylestown	1889	Doylestown	Tuesday on or before full moon	J. Evan Zorns, Philadelphia.
271	Pottstown	1890	Pottstown	Third Tuesday	Newton S. Kinzer, Pottstown.
272	Hebron	1890	Meyersdale	Monday after full moon	Martin A. Rutter, Meyersdale.
273	Butler	1891	Butler	Third Tuesday	William A. Stein, Butler.
274	Bangor	1891	Bangor	Fourth Wednesday	Robert S. Wagner, Bangor.
275	Kennett	1892	Kennett Square	Wednesday after full moon	P. H. Bratton, Kennett Square.
276	The Susquehanna	1892	Susquehanna	Second Friday	G. W. Gleason, Susquehanna.
277	Hazleton	1893	Hazleton	Second Monday after full moon	T. Milnor Morris, Jeanesville.
278	Catasauqua	1894	Catasauqua	Second Wednesday	Edmund Randall, Catasauqua.
279	Kane	1895	Kane	Third Wednesday	William H. Davis, Kane.
			MARK LODGES.		
91	Columbia	1825	Philadelphia	Second Monday	James Bleloch, Philadelphia.
214	Girard	1847	Philadelphia	Second Tuesday	Thos. S. Woodbury, Philadelphia.
216	Excelsior	1854	Philadelphia	Third Tuesday	Charles W. Carns, Philadelphia.

GRAND CHAPTERS IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GRAND CHAPTERS.	GRAND SECRETARIES.
Alabama	Henry C. Armstrong, Montgomery.
Arizona	George K. Roskruge, Tucson.
Arkansas	James A. Henry, Little Rock.
California	Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco.
Canada	Thomas Sargant, Hamilton, Ontario.
Colorado	Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver.
Connecticut	James McCormick, Hartford.
Delaware	James H. Price, Wiimington.
District of Columbia	Arvine W. Johnson, Washington.
England	Edward Letchworth, Freemasons' Hall, London.
England, Grand Mark Lodge	C. F. Matier, Mark Masons' Hall, London.
Florida	W A. McLean, Jacksonville.
General Grand Chapter	Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo, N. Y.
Georgia	A. M. Wolihin, Macon.
Illinois	Gilbert W. Barnard, Masonic Temple, Chicago.
Indiana	William H Smythe, Indianapolis.
Indian Territory	Joseph H. Murrow, Atoka.
Iowa	Alf. Wingate, Des Moines
Ireland	Archibald St. George, Freemasons' Hall, Dublin.
Kansas	Jacob DeWitt, Salina.
Kentucky	H. B. Grant, Louisville.
Louisiana	Richard Lambert, New Orleans.
Maine	Stephen Berry, Portland.
Maryland	George L. McCahan, Baltimore.
Massachusetts	J. Albert Blake, 28 School Street, Boston.
Michigan	Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul.
Mississippi	J. L. Power, Jackson,
Missouri	William H. Mayo, St. Louis.
Montana	Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
Nebraska	William R Bowen, Omaha.
Nevada	Chauncey N. Noteware, Carson City.
New Brunswick	William A Ewing, St. John.
New Hampshire	George P. Cleaves, Concord.
New Jersey	George B. Edwards, Jersey City.
New York	Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo.
North Carolina	Horace H. Munson, Wilmington.
North Dakota	Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.
Nova Scotia	David Neish, Halifax.
Ohio	Charles C. Kiefer, Urbana.
Oregon	James F. Robinson, Eugene.
Pennsylvania	Charles Cary, Philadelphia.
Quebec	Will H. Whyte, Montreal.
Rhode Island	William R. Greene, Providence.
Scotland	Robert S. Brown, Edinburgh.
South Carolina	A. E. Fugle, Columbia.
South Dakota	George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau.
Tennessee	W. A. Clendening, Nashville.
Texas	George Lopas, Jr., Houston.
Vermont	Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington.
Victoria	John Brain. Melbourne.
Virginia	James B. Blanks. Petersburg.
Washington	Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla.
West Virginla	Odel S. Long, Charleston.
Wisconsin	John W. Laflin, Milwaukee.

REPRESENTATIVES

. . TO AND FROM . .

SISTER GRAND CHAPTERS

EDWARD J. JAMES	Alabama	H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.
WILLIAM J. KELLY	Arkansas	JOHN G. HOLLAND.
J. SIMPSON AFRICA	California	JAS. WRIGHT ANDERSON.
THOMAS R PATTON	Canada	DONALD McPHIE.
FRANK J. COLLINS	Connecticut	A E. BLAKESLEE.
SAMUEL W. LATTA	Colorado	
JAMES S. BARBER	Delaware	JOHN W. LAWSON.
DAVID B. TAYLOR	District of Columbia	MARTIN R. THORP.
GEORGE P. BALMAIN	Georgia	A I. LEET.
GEORGE E. WAGNER	Grand Mark Lodge of England	WILLIAM J. HUGHAN.
GEORGE B. WELLS	Illinois	P. W. BARCLAY.
ANTHONY E. STOCKER	Indiana	SIMEON S. JOHNSON.
RICHARD M JOHNSON	Indian Territory	JAMES F. HUMPHREY.
JOSHUA L. LYTE	Iowa	CHARLES H. WILDER.
SAMUEL W. WRAY	Kansas	HENRY C. COOK.
EDGAR A. TENNIS	Kentucky	GEORGE A. LEWIS.
SAMUEL C PERKINS	Louisiana	J. H. CALDWELL.
ALEXANDER McCUNE	Maine	MARQUIS F. KING.
ALEXANDER H. MORGAN	Maryland	GEORGE L. WELLINGTON
MARTIN L. SHAFFNER	Massachusetts	SERANUS BOWEN.
N. FERREE LIGHTNER	Minnesota	H. KIRKWOOD.
THOMAS JACOBS	Mississippi	S. C. CONLY.
HENRY J. McCARTHY	Missouri	REUBEN BARNEY, M. D.
GEO. W. KENDRICK, JR.	Nebraska	WILLIAM R BOWEN.
ISAAC N GRUBB	Nevada	ROBERT L. FULTON.
SAMUEL W. LATTA	New Brunswick	THOMAS A. GODSOE.
JOSEPH EICHBAUM	New Hampshire	SAMUEL CONDON, JR.
EZRA S. BARTLETT	New Jersey	HENRY S. HAINES.
CHARLES CARY	New York	ELMER A. MILLER.
JAMES S. BARBER	North Carolina	HENRY C. ATKINSON.
MICHAEL W. JACOBS	North Dakota	LEONARD A. ROSE.
SAMUEL S. YOHE	Nova Scotia	FRASER W DAKIN.
IRVING P. WANGER	Ohio	JAMES W. IREDELL, JR.
EDWARD B. SPENCER	Oregon	JAMES R. BAYLEY.
JOHN McKAIN	Quebec	FRANK EDGAR.
ELLSWORTH H. HULTS	Rhode Island	ALBERT L. ANTHONY.
JOSEPH M. WIATT	South Carolina	EDWARD B. HUME.
HARRY M. VAN ZANDT	South Dakota	GEORGE H. RATHMAN.
THOMAS R. PATTON	Scotland	LINDSAY MACKERSY.
HIBBERT P. JOHN	Tennessee	JOHN M. SEARS.
WILLIAM A. SINN	Texas	B. R. ABERNETHY.
LOUIS WAGNER	Vermont	J. HENRY JACKSON.
CONRAD B. DAY	Virginia	J. F. CHRISTIAN.
JOHN KELLER	Washington	LOUIS ZIEGLER.
JOHN C. WALLACE	West Virginia	JOHN C. RIHELDAFFER.
L. HASSELL LAPP	Wisconsin	CHARLES V. BARDEEN.

OFFICERS

The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

. . OF . .

...PENNSYLVANIA...

1897

RICHARD M. JOHNSON, ... M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
P. O. Address, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

MICHAEL W. JACOBS, ... M. E. GRAND KING.

EDWARD B. SPENCER, ... M. E. GRAND SCRIBE.

THOMAS R. PATTON, ... M. E. GRAND TREASURER.

CHARLES CARY, ... M. E. GRAND SECRETARY.
P. O. Address, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

Past Grand High Priests.

SAMUEL C. PERKINS, ... 1866–1867

GEORGE E. WAGNER, ... 1876

WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, M. D., ... 1879–1880

HIBBERT P. JOHN, ... 1881–1882

GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., ... 1885–1886

MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, ... 1887–1888

JAMES S. BARBER, ... 1889–1890

ALEXANDER H. MORGAN, ... 1891–1892

EDGAR A. TENNIS, ... 1893–1894

EZRA S. BARTLETT, ... 1895–1896

OFFICERS

The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

. . OF . .

...PENNSYLVANIA...

1897

RICHARD M. JOHNSON, ... M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
P. O. Address, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

MICHAEL W. JACOBS, ... M. E. GRAND KING.

EDWARD B. SPENCER, ... M. E. GRAND SCRIBE.

THOMAS R. PATTON, ... M. E. GRAND TREASURER.

CHARLES CARY, ... M. E. GRAND SECRETARY.
P. O. Address, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.